Staffordshire parochial ministers "silenced" from 1660 to 1662: An historical account and register

by Richard Sylvanus Williams

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Richard Ashley ALIAS Astley (presbyterian minister of Stowe) e1634-1696 R1
Ashley, born perhaps about 1634 near Manchester, was probably the son of a Lancashire "gentleman". He was educated at Manchester where he was a boarder in the town. He is said to "have been bred at Cambridge" but may not have matriculated and was probably only educated to literate grade. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 28 Feb 1658.9 when after presentation by Richard Cromwell *qua* Protector he was admitted as presbyterian minister of Stowe parochial curacy. In Jun 1660 he likely continued in office as *parochial curate* but probably ?voluntarily resigned shortly thereafter. By 1661 he was curate of Blackrod, Lancs but may have resigned before 24 Aug 1662 perhaps to avoid subscribing to the *Act of uniformity*. In 1668 he may have been living at Tilsley Bank in Leigh, Lancs. In 1669 after preaching in Lancashire at Darwen on 21 May and at Newton on 13 Dec he was presented by the churchwardens. By 10 Jul 1669 Ashley had been admitted as a member of a congregational meeting in Hull when he was elected pastor in succession to John Canne (d 1667). About 15 May 1672 (as a congregationalist) he was licensed to both preach and to be an independent teacher at the house of John Robinson in Hull. In 1682 his meeting was temporarily suppressed and he was to be arrested but is said to have escaped. In 1685 during Monmouth's rebellion his meeting-house was used as a prison. In the winter of 1695 Ashley fell ill and still in office "having served the Lord as Pastor of this Church about 27 years" died, aged about 62, on ?7 Apr 1696 and was buried at Drypool, Yorks East Riding on 9 Apr. Ashley married about 1671 to a woman (? Hannah d 1711) by whom he had two sons and ?two daughters. His daughter Abigail was the first wife of Abraham Dawson of Cottingham, Yorks East Riding minister 1663-1733. *Calamy* records this man as Mr Ashley in 1702 and as Mr or Mr William (*in error*) Ashley in 1713 but as Mr Richard Astley in 1727. His surname appears as both Ashley and Astley in contemporary records - did he intend to confuse the authorities?

Thomas Badland B.A. (presbyterian minister of Willenhall) c1634-1698 R2
Badland, born about 1634, was a son of ----- Badland of Worcester merchant c1604-.... He studied at Oxford where on 27 Nov 1650 he was a servitor at Pembroke College and matriculated. At Oxford he graduated B.A. on 29 Nov 1653. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman when he was appointed presbyterian minister of Willenhall parochial curacy (perhaps on 4 Feb 1656.7). On 19 May 1657 he was ordained as a presbyterian clergyman by the Wirksworth Classis, Derbys. At Willenhall he was in receipt of an augmentation of £20 or £24 pa to his annual salary. On 10 Nov 1658 he gave a certificate of fitness to John Orford c1638-..... **QV** as presbyterian minister of Arley. In Jun 1660 he continued in office at Willenhall as *de facto* parochial curate. Between 20 Dec 1659 and 22 Jul 1661 he conducted three marriages at Wolverhampton. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. He may then have briefly lived in West Bromwich but during 1663 he returned to his birthplace Worcester where he lived for the rest of his life. In 1669 he preached in Worcester St Nicholas and the same year was the teacher of a Worcester conventicle probably at the house of Thomas Smith. In 1672 he was licensed as a presbyterian teacher at the house of (his future father-in-law) William Chetle of Worcester clothier c1626-1687. In 1687 a congregational church was founded in Worcester and Badland was the first pastor. A founding record is signed by him as pastor. Other signatories were Elizabeth Badland (? his sister), William Chetle (above), Chetle's wife Sarah and his daughter another Sarah (Badland's future wife). Chewning Blackmore was his assistant pastor from 1688 and later his successor. On 1 Oct 1689 Badland certified Warmstree House, Worcester as a place of worship for protestant dissentors. The next year he was said to have "an estate and Contribution" and to be "very ancient and almost past his labours". Still in office he died, aged 64, on 5 May 1698 and was buried on 9 May in the chancel at Worcester St Martin. An inscribed monument was placed on the south wall of the south aisle which read "Under these seats lies interred the body of the Rev Mr Thomas Badland a faithful and profitable preacher of the Gospel in this city for 35 years. He rested from his labours, May 5 AD 1698 aetat 64 Mors mihi vita nova." His will made on 5 Feb 1693.4 was proved under Worcester on 19 Jul 1698. His personalty was valued at £753. Badland married on 28 Jan 1688.9 at Worcester to Sarah Chetle e1658-1695 dau of William Chetle of Worcester clothier c1626-1687 and Sarah (Hall) (no known children). *Calamy* obtained some information about Worcestershire ministers from "a paper under the Hands of Mr. Badland". Badland was the author of *Eternity, or, the weightiness of the unseen concerns of the other world, from their duration opened, proved, and applyed in a sermon preached in Worcestershire* (1676). The book was printed in Worcester but published in London.

[NOTE: In 1693 Richard White B.D. preached a funeral sermon for Thomas Baldwin of Kidderminster, Worcs minister c1628-1693 which was printed with his name (in error) as Thomas Badland.]

Thomas Bakewell M.A. *(?compliant* minister of Rolleston) c1619-p1677 R3

Bakewell, born about 1619, was a son of Augustus Bakewell of Stanton [? Stanton-by-Bridge], Derbys e1577-.... [? and Dorothy (Bakewell)]. He studied at Oxford where on 17 Apr 1635 he was a commoner at Lincoln College and matriculated. At Oxford he graduated B.A. on 23 Oct 1638 (M.A., 3 Jul 1641). About this time he was probably ordained deacon and priest. Perhaps by 1646 he had been appointed *?compliant* minister of Derby St Werburgh where in 1650 he was described as "an able and pious man". Here his salary of £18 pa was sometimes augmented by up to £50 pa. In Aug 1654 he was appointed an *assistant commissioner for the ejection of scandalous ministers* in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. At Derby he resigned before 13 May 1657 when after presentation by Oliver Cromwell 1599-1658 [? *qua* the *Protector*] he was admitted as *? compliant* minister of Rolleston rectory with a salary said to be £120 pa. Whilst at Rolleston he certified the fitness of many candidates for the ministry. In early Jun 1660 he probably ? voluntarily resigned for a successor was instituted on 11 Jul 1660. In 1661 he was Boylston Lecturer at Burton-upon-Trent. Here he was to give a lecture every Thursday morning and was paid a salary of about £32 pa by the London Company of Clothworkers (who on 22 Jun 1648 had been given £800 by Thomas Boylston of London clothier the founder of the lectureship). He did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* on 24 Aug 1662 and was thus to be deprived. Afterwards he continued to preach in his rented house in Burton. With Thomas Ford presbyterian minister c1633-?1679 he also held a conventicle at Burton and since that was then an offence both were successfully prosecuted on 22 Oct 1663 at Lichfield Consistory Court. Bakewell was suspended from officiating in the diocese and Ford was excommunicated. Both then had to appear before a local J.P. - Sir Brian Broughton of Broughton in Eccleshall 1st Baronet 1618-1708 - to whom they both refused to give a security for their better behaviour. They were subsequently imprisoned at Stafford Gaol from 9 Mar 1663.4 to 30 Sep 1664. Under *The five mile act* (31 Oct 1665), which prohibited nonconformist clergy from entering within 5 miles of parliamentary corporations such as Stafford, Bakewell was "was forc'd to leave his Family Wife and Children and go into a desart Place six Miles from his Habitation where he continu'd for several Months to spend his Pains among a poor People who were glad to have the Gospel preach'd to them ...". Perhaps at this time that he was as *Calamy* records in 1702 "... Preaching about Privately in Fields and Lanes, when he was not allow'd to do it in fitter places, was follow'd by the Huntsmen with their Dogs, and was many ways a sufferer." In 1669 he was a teacher of a presbyterian conventicle at his own and other houses in Burton. On 25 Jul 1672 he was licensed as a congregational teacher at the houses of Mr Broughton and Richard Browne of Longdon and on 5 Sep 1672 he was licensed as a congregational teacher at his own house in Tatenhill. In 1673 he probably moved to Longdon where he was living on 3 Jul 1677 when Thomas Minors wrote his will in which he bequeathes "And to Mr Thomas Bakewell of Longdon clerke sometimes Minister att Burton upon Trent the sume of Tenn pounds and to Mr [blank] Ford (who was formerly imprisoned with the said Mr Bakewell of Stafford[sic]) the sume of Tenn pounds". No further record of him or his family has been discovered. Bakewell married about 1645 to a woman by whom he had 4 sons and 2 daughters. [NOTE: A man of the same name, Thomas Bakewell of London St Bride baker, was the author of *A justification of infant baptism* (1646).]

Thomas Baldwin (presbyterian minister of Clent) c1628-.... R4

Baldwin, born about 1628 in London, is of unknown parentage. He studied at Cambridge where on 17 May 1655 he was admitted as a sizar at Queen's College but did not graduate. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 6 Jun 1655 when he was in office as a presbyterian minister at Moseley, Worcs. On 10 Jun 1657 after presentation by Oliver Cromwell *qua* the *Protector* and/or by the *Trustees for the maintenance of preaching ministers* he was approved by the *Commission for approbation of public preachers* as presbyterian minister of Clent vicarage. At Clent his salary was at times augmented by £10 or £30. Whilst at Clent Baldwin is said to have been a member of the *Worcestershire Association*. He certified the fitness of candidates for the ministry in 1658. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* vicar. About 1660 he writes in Clent parish register that all the children "have bin baptized as soone as borne as witnesseth him who baptized most of them ... Tho Baldwin, Vic." He was presented at the Stafford Quarter Sessions on 7 Jul 1661 for refusing to read the prayer book service *ex prava et diabolica mente* (i.e. from a perverse and diabolical mind). On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. In 1669 he was a teacher at the house of William Bell in Birmingham, Warwicks. He had moved to Rowley Regis by 5 Sep 1672 when he was licensed as a presbyterian preacher. On 6 Jul 1689 a chapel at Birmingham, Warwicks (later known as Birmingham Old Meeting House) was licensed in the names of (its first minister) William Turton (presbyterian minister of Rowley Regis) c1629-1716 **QV**, Thomas Baldwin and William Fincher (presbyterian minister of Wednesbury) c1630-1691 **QV**. In the same year Baldwin's house at Birmingham was certified as a meeting place. Probably the next year he and Fincher are together recorded as ministers "Att Birmingham, of one Congregation well provided for each of

them £30 per annum". A manuscript survey of dissenting ministers taken about 1691 has under Staffordshire the entry " Ministers that have a Competent Supply - Mr Tho: Baldwin - [ejected Minister] Of Clent - but the entry is scored out. Baldwin probably married (? on 2 Aug 1657 at Birmingham) to Elizabeth (?Sharplin) by whom he had 3 sons. After 1690 no definite record of Baldwin has been discovered. However he might be the man of this name who on 8 Oct 1701 as "Thomas Baldwyn of Birmingham Gent" made a will (to which he "makes his mark") proved under Lichfield on 1 Nov 1701. In his will he mentions his wife Sarah and their children and grandchildren ... also "my Studdye of Bookes [valued at £20] which I give and bequeath unto my sonne in Law Mr John Padgett". His personalty was valued at £372/8/10. This man was probably buried at Birmingham on 11 Oct 1701. [NOTE: TB of Clent is often confused with a contemporary - Thomas Baldwin presbyterian minister of Chaddesley Corbett, Worcestershire (and later of Kidderminster, Worcs) c1628-1693 (who was born in Middlesex) - who in his will appoints a kinsman "Mr Thomas Baldwin of Birmingham" as an overseer. In 1693 Richard White B.D. preached a funeral sermon for Thomas Baldwin of Kidderminster, Worcs minister the title of which was printed with his name (in error) as Thomas Badland.]

Henry Bee B.A. (presbyterian minister of Hanbury) c1630-1675 **R5**

Bee, born about 1630, was 2nd son of Henry Bee of Stapenhill in Burton-upon-Trent, Derbys yeoman c1597-1671 and Margery. He studied at Cambridge where he is said to have matriculated in 1646 before he was admitted as a sizar at Trinity College on 14 May 1647. At Cambridge he graduated B.A. in 1650.1. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 16 Nov 1652 when he was in office as presbyterian minister of Ruddington, Notts. Here he probably resigned before 10 May 1654 when after presentation by Oliver Cromwell *qua* the *Protector* he was approved by the *Commission for approbation of public preachers* as presbyterian minister of Hanbury vicarage. It is said his salary of £80 was at times augmented by £20 to £100 by the *Trustees for the maintenance of preaching ministers*. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* vicar. In Jan 1661.2 he paid a clerical subsidy of 10/0. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. In 1669 he was likely head of a conventicle held at his own house in Burton-upon-Trent and is recorded as teaching at Hanbury, Newborough and Hugglescote & Donnington, Leics. C*alamy* records in 1723 that Bee was " A good preacher ... He, with other ministers, was cast into Stafford jail for Nonconformity". On 5 Sep 1672 and then still living in Burton-upon-Trent (at Stapenhill) he was licensed as a congregational teacher. Bee died, aged about 45, and was buried on 10 Jun 1675 at Barton-under-Needwood. His administration was granted under Lichfield on 17 Jun 1675 to (a younger brother) Daniel Bee (vicar of Cardington, Salop) c1635-1720 who was also to oversee the education of Henry's children. His personalty was valued at £71/7/0 and included "It his Library £10". Bee married on 10 Apr 1655 at Uttoxeter to Alice Burton by whom he had 2 sons and 1 daughter. Henry Bee (rector of Troston, Suffolk) 1655-1714 was his older son who like his uncle Daniel was anglicanly ordained.

Thomas Bladon (presbyterian minister of Alrewas) c1631-1703 **R6**

Bladon, born about 1631, was a son of Thomas Bladon of Newton [?Solney], Derbys. He was educated at Repton, Derbys. He studied at Cambridge where on 7 Feb 1654.5 he was admitted as a sizar at Magdalene College and matriculated the same year but did not graduate. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 2 Mar 1655.6 when he entered office as presbyterian minister of Barton-under-Needwood parochial chapelry and recorded the event in the parish register "Thomas Bladen auspicatur apud Barton sub need=wood Martij 2do Anno Dom. 1655". After nomination on 20 May 1658 by the *Trustees for the maintenance of preaching ministers* he was approved by the *Commission for approbation of public preachers* as presbyterian minister of Alrewas vicarage. He received an augmentation of £24 to his annual salary that had been paid to his predecessor. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* vicar. In 1661 he paid a clerical subsidy of 10/0. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. In 1669 he was preaching at Walsall and in Dec 1672, as of Birmingham, Warwicks, was licensed as a presbyterian teacher. He is probably the man of this name who was appointed as a schoolmaster at Whittington on 16 Oct 1683 where he was living when he made his will on 18 Jan 1693.4. A manuscript survey of dissenting ministers taken about 1691 has under Staffordshire the entry " Ministers that have a Competent Supply - Mr Tho: Bladen - [ejected Minister] Of Alrewas - able to goe abroad every Lords day 4. 5. or 6 miles for 9/0 or 7/0 pr day and horse hire paid out of it". Later he moved to Tamworth where he officiated at a baptism at Tamworth Presbyterian meeting on 14 Nov 1702. Here he died, aged about 72, and was buried on 13 Jan 1702.3. His will made on 18 Jan 1693.4 was proved under Lichfield on 15 Jan 1702.3 and 6 Dec 1704. In his will Bladon appointed as executors his "couzens" [? his nephew and niece] Thomas Rotheram and Hannah Rotheram (later wife of John Kenrick) who in 1704 were respectively defendant and plaintiff in a court case regarding his will. Birch may not have married. In his will he mentions other "couzens" [?nieces] Catherine, Ursula and Dionisia Harvey daughters and coheirs of Nicholas Harvey of Whittington gentleman c1618-1698. Ursula Harvey had married on 18 Sep 1673 at Whittington to Thomas Pretty (rector of Winchfield, Hants) c1650-1726. *Calamy* records in 1727 "He was a very valuable Man for his Piety and practical Preaching. He had a great

Aversion to Disputations; but when he was necessitated to any Thing of that Kind, was quick and sharp and full. He liv'd many Years at Birmingham, and preached at many Places thereabouts. I am inform'd he died at Tamworth." Bladon is said to have been the author of two sermons (nos XIII and XIV) published in *England's remembrancer: Being a collection of farewel-sermons preached by divers non-conformists in the country* (1663). A later writer (1802) says "Tho' long, they are not tedious; but are judicious, practical, and very appropriate". Both sermons were based on *Acts xx 32 - "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."*

Thomas Brookes (presbyterian minister of Hints) e1620-c1670 **R7**

Brookes, born perhaps about 1620, is of unknown parentage. He was probably only educated to literate grade. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 29 Sep 1658 when after presentation by the *Trustees for the maintenance of preaching ministers* he was approved by the *Commission for approbation of public preachers* as presbyterian minister of Hints parochial curacy. On 1 May 1659 he was "established" and granted an augmentation of £50 to his annual salary that had been paid to his predecessors. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate. On 5 Mar 1661 he issued a a licence to "eat flesh in time of sickness" to Elizabeth wife of Richard Floyer of Hints esquire 1603-1679. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. Subsequently he moved to Birmingham, Warwicks with his wife and children. He died, aged perhaps about 50, about 1670. Brookes married, perhaps about 1655, to a woman by whom he had children (perhaps 1 son and 1 daughter). *Calamy* records in 1727 (naming him as William):

> "After his Ejectment he was very poor, and had nothing to maintain his Wife and Children, who were [in] Danger of wanting Bread: He therefore went to Birmingham, from whence he took a Turn at appointed Times, to preach at certain Places where Help was wanted, and would sometimes continue abroad for Weeks at a Time, and then return home with Supplys for his Family ... He was of no great personal Presence, and had a weak Constitution; he had no taking Delivery and so was not popular: But he was a very holy, humble, heavenly Man. His Preaching was solid and practical, his Converse serious and grave, his Patience in Sufferings and his Dependance upon God in Wants and Necessities exemplary, and his Thankfulness great to God and Man. He liv'd by Faith, and was most delightfully employ'd in preparing himself and others for Heaven."

Noah Bryan M.A. (presbyterian minister of Stafford St Mary) c1635-c1672 **R8**

Bryan, born about 1635, was 4th son of John Bryan M.A. (rector of Barford, Warwicks) c1606-1676. He was educated at Coventry, Warwicks. He studied at Cambridge where he was admitted as a pensioner at Peterhouse on 23 Apr 1650 and in 1652 was a scholar. At Cambridge he graduated B.A. 1653 (M.A., 1657). The same year his M.A. was incorporated at Oxford. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 22 Feb 1656.7 when after presentation by Oliver Cromwell *qua* the *Protector* he was approved by the *Commission for approbation of public preachers* as presbyterian minister of Stafford St Mary rectory and sworn in the next day. Here he succeded his dead brother Nathaniel Bryan c1629-1657 both as minister and register. In Feb 1657.8 the mayor and inhabitants of Stafford petitioned the *Protector* for an augmentation of £40 to his annual salary of £24 which the *Trustees for the maintenance of preaching ministers* granted or confirmed by their order dated 20 Jan 1658.9. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* rector. About Sep 1660 he was displaced in office by the former rector Daniel Bayley c1600-1676. On 13 Feb 1662.3 he was ordained deacon and priest by Exeter. *Calamy* records in 1713 "When he left Stafford he became Chaplain to the Earl of Donegal [Arthur Chichester 1st Earl of Donegal 1606-1675], and went with him into Ireland .... He was an excellent Preacher, and a very holy Man, as appears by his Diary." Bryan is said to have signed a letter from Dublin ministers to London ministers on a question of church discipline on 8 July 1669. He probably died, aged about 37, about 1672 in Ireland. He may not have married. His brother Samuel Bryan c1633-1682 (who was still living in England on 5 Sep 1672) also served as Chaplain to the Chaplain to Chichester (likely immediately succeding his brother) and is mentioned in Chichester's will "Item I leave and bequeath to Mr Samuell Bryan my household chaplain as a testimony of my sincere love to him fifty pounds ster: over and above his years salary for four years to comence within two months after my death." It is said of Chichester and his third wife - in the period after 1660 - "The countess was an active patron of protestant dissent, in Ulster, Dublin, and later London, and the family drew its chaplains from the ranks of English presbyterianism. The earl's tolerance of presbyterian expansion was particularly evident in Belfast." Bryan's father John Bryan c1606-1676 was rector of Barford, Warwicks 1632 until 1644 and then *compliant* minister of Coventry Holy Trinity from May 1644 until his deprivation in 1662. He was the father of 4 sons: John Bryan M.A. (presbyterian minister of Shrewsbury Holy Cross) c1628-1699; Nathaniel Bryan M.A. c1629-1657 (presbyterian minister of Stafford St Mary); Samuel Bryan M.A. (presbyterian minister of Allesley, Warwicks) c1633-1682 and Noah himself.

Henry Burford (*compliant* minister of Tatenhill) c1590-.... **R9**

Burford, born about 1590, was a son of Francis Burford B.A. (vicar of Cliffe Pypard, Wilts) c1558-1614. He studied at Oxford where about 1613 he was a student at St John's College. At Oxford he graduated B.A. 29 Oct 1616 (M.A., 17 Jun 1619). Earlier on 22 Apr 1614 he had been ordained

deacon and priest by Oxford and on 10 Jun 1614, probably after presentation by Richard Hunton of Bushton, had a dispensation to become vicar of Cliffe Pypard in succession to his father Francis. On 2 Oct 1622 he was appointed a preacher throughout the diocese of Salisbury. Burford is said to have been in office in 1638. It is not known if on 5 Feb 1643.4 he continued here as *compliant* minister. He definitely resigned before 4 May 1649 when a successor was appointed. Most likely he had already resigned before 1 Mar 1646.7 when he was appointed by parliament as *compliant* minister of Tatenhill rectory. In 1651 he was involved in a court case regarding Tatenhill "parsonage". As incumbent of Tatenhill rectory Burford was the patron of the parochial curacies of Barton-under-Needwood and Wychnor. An inquisition held on 23 Aug 1658 found that Burford had a salary of £215 pa out of which he was to pay £50 pa to Henry Byard (presbyterian minister of Barton-under-Needwood) c1616-1677 and £10 pa to "Mr Baton" (minister of Wychnor). In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* rector. It would appear that Burford coercively resigned here before 1 Sep 1660 when his successor Robert Wild D.D. c1616-1679, after presentation by the Crown, was inducted as rector of Tatenhill. It is said that Wild "allowed him £20 pa to keep him alive as he was reduced to poverty and much impotency". On 24 Aug 1662 Wild did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus ejected. No further record of Burford has been discovered. Burford married about 10 Jun 1617 to Elizabeth Hills (d 1655) dau of Christopher Hills of Lydiard Tregoze, Wilts gentleman by whom he had 1 son.

John Butler (presbyterian minister of Lichfield St Mary) c1621-1671 R10

Butler, born about 1621, was a son of William Butler of Oddington, Glos. He studied at Oxford where on 15 Dec 1637 he was a commoner at St Edmund Hall and matriculated. At Oxford he graduated B.A. on 1 Jul 1641 (M.A., University College) 20 Oct 1648. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 6 Aug 1651 when he was in office as presbyterian joint-minister of Lichfield with a salary of £150 pa (together with William Langley *compliant* joint-minister of Lichfield 1618-1689 **QV**). Langley accused Butler of not being ordained (although it is unclear if he meant as an anglican or as a presbyterian), of wanting to become (sole) minister of Lichfield St Chad (Stowe) and of being instrumental in his - Langley's - ejection. Writing about 1654 in *The persecuted minister* (1656) Langley states:

> ... Had you been as carefull to have been ordained, as you were covetous of means, you might not have wanted Ordination. The Committee for the Universities, and the Trustees and Committee for plundred Ministers had your name given them as a Minister, and a Certificate to that purpose; for they never sealed any in any place but such of whom they received testimony that they were Ministers of the Gospel. I wonder by whose means and sollicitations those Testimonies and Certificates were procured, who was guilty of these deliberate untruths. Did the Minister subscribe ignorantly? the sin of misinformation was yours; if knowingly, then both equally guilty: how can you free your self from aequivocation and jugling in this kinde? Upon these Certificates you were assigned to a publick Charge, and had the allowance of £150 per annum, preached, baptized, and married. ... that nothing would content you but a distinct Charge contrary to the order of settlement which enjoyned a joynt charge of the City and Parishes thereunto belonging, had we continued as one, would have been a strong motive to have perswaded the City to follow our example; but you must needs row to the North [The church of St Chad (or Stowe) lay about half a mile north-east of the church of St Mary], and leave me alone in the South. At your first coming to Stowe you owned the people as your flock; you had not been there above two moneths, ... I am constrained to adde one thing, and were there nothing else, that bespeaks you most unworthy, that you had privately a hand in my bitter persecution for the accomplishing of your self-ends.

However a letter by an unnamed Lichfield resident records:

> Sir, WHEN I first came to live in Litchfield, which was in May 1655, Mr Butler was the sole settled Minister of St Mary's, (a pious good Man) and so continu'd peaceably, well beloved and highly approv'd of by the Generality of the Peo[ple] untill after the Restoration; when he was ejected by Mr Harrison, who then was Minister of a Place commonly call'd Blitchfield in Staffordshire which he afterwards enjoy'd with St Mary's and other Dignities. As to Mr Langley I never knew him nor his Book. I have heard that before my Time, he preach'd at St Mary's, and Mr Butler at St Chad's alias Stow Church in the City: And when Mr Langley was remov'd from St Mary's, Mr Butler became Minister thereof. The Occasion of Mr Langley's Removal I know nothing of. Yours, &c.

At Lichfield, on the ejection of Langley probably in early 1654, Butler continued as (sole) minister. On 28 Aug 1654 he was appointed an *assistant commissioner for the ejection of scandalous ministers* in Staffordshire. He frequently certified the fitness of candidates for the ministry in 1658.9. In early Jun 1660 he may have continued here as *de jure* vicar but, by *An act for the confirming and restoring of ministers* (13 Sep 1660), was displaced from office when Richard Harrison c1611-1676 **QV** was "restored" here. *Calamy* records in 1727 "he rarely preach'd after his being silenc'd, unless sometimes in his own House". Butler subsequently moved to Bedfordshire. He died, aged about 50, in May 1671 perhaps in Bedfordshire but was buried on 25 May at Lichfield St Mary. His will made on 5 May 1671 was proved under *PCC* on 13 Jul 1671. Butler married first about 1650 to a woman by whom he had 2 sons and probably other children. He married (apparently) second perhaps about 1658 to Elizabeth (no known children). Lilly Butler D.D. (canon of Canterbury) 1651-1717 was one of his sons. On 3 Jul 1677 Thomas Minors of Lichfield mercer 1609-1677, a wealthy presbyterian, wrote his will and bequeathed "unto Lilly Butler clerke sonne of my late much honoured Friend Mr John Butler of Lichfield deceased ... one messuage in Edyall neare Lichfield ... [to] Mrs Elizabeth Butler heretofore of Lichfield now of

north=hill in the county of Bedford widow £20". Minors had also paid for Lilly's university education.

Thomas Buxton (presbyterian minister of Tettenhall) 1625-?1685 R11
Buxton, christened on 4 Sep 1625 at Kirk Ireton, was 4th son of German Buxton of Kirk Ireton, Derbys yeoman c1585-1654 and Millicent Buxton dau of John Buxton of Carsington, Derbys gentleman. He was educated at Wirksworth, Derbys. He studied at Cambridge where on 29 Sep 1645 he was admitted as a pensioner at St John's College and matriculated that year but did not graduate. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 25 Jul 1655 when after presentation by Oliver Cromwell (? *qua* the *Protector)* he was approved by the *Commission for approbation of public preachers* as presbyterian minister of Tettenhall parochial curacy. However on 23 Oct 1655 the *Committee for plundered ministers* withheld an augmentation to his annual salary on the petition of the former minister Richard Harrison c1611-1676. On 1 Dec 1656 he was also appointed register. About 1659 he was in receipt of an augmentation of £73. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. From 1665 to 1672 he lived at Tamworth where in 1665 he was assessed on 4 hearths for a house he shared with "Mr Overton" (perhaps his father-in-law). In 1669 he was a teacher of a conventicle at Shuttington, Warwicks "in the parish church, there being no min[iste]r residing upon it ... all the resorters to it are from Newton Regis". On 16 Apr 1672 he was licensed as a congregational teacher in his own house at Tamworth and on 9 May 1672 he and Abel Collyer were licensed as congregational teachers at Coventry. Buxton (probably) died, aged about 60, and was buried on 2 Mar 1684.5 at Bradbourne, Derbys (where his paternal grandfather had lived). Buxton married 7 Mar 1652.3 at Elvaston, Derbys to Grace Overton (? 1629-?1675) probably dau of George Orton of Tamworth by whom he had 1 son and 2 daughters. Edward Buxton (rector of Nottingham St Peter) c1638-1680 was a younger brother.

Henry Byard M.A. (presbyterian minister of Barton-under-Needwood) c1616-1677 R12
Byard, born about 1616, was a younger son of Henry Byard of Bretby, Derbys husbandman c1582-1657. He studied at Oxford where on 27 Oct 1637 he was a commoner at Magdalen College and matriculated. At Oxford he graduated B.A. on 3 Dec 1638 (M.A., 8 Jul 1641). He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by Apr 1645 when he was in office as presbyterian minister of Wheldrake, Yorks East Riding. On 15 Jan 1646.7 the *Committee for plundered ministers* ordered him to be sequestered for non-payment of fifths but he pleaded a fault in the order and may still have been in office here on 14 Jan 1657.8 when he was an *assistant commissioner for the ejection of scandalous ministers* in Yorkshire East Riding. By 23 Aug 1658 he was in office as presbyterian minister of Barton-under-Needwood parochial curacy where his salary of £50 pa was paid by Henry Burford (*compliant* minister of Tatenhill) c1590-.... **QV** *qua* patron "rector" of Barton-under-Needwood. In Jun 1660 he likely continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate. He was apparently ordained deacon and priest by Ardfert *pro* York on 14 Aug 1660 but does not appear to have subscribed to *The act of uniformity* and was thus probably to be deprived on 24 Aug 1662. On 24 Sep 1662 his office was vacant. His successor at Barton, Godfrey Ward e1639-1696, was in office by 8 Mar 1662.3. However he was probably still living here on 9 Apr 1663 when one of his daughters was baptised here. He is said to have subscribed to *The act of uniformity* on 5 Feb 1662.3[?] when he was appointed vicar of Wistow, Yorks West Riding. By 1667 he was living there and still in office, died there, aged about 61, on 25 Aug 1677. He was apparently buried at Wistow where an inscribed monument was erected. His will made on 21 Aug 1677 was proved under York on 9 Oct 1677. Byard married first about 1658 to Elizabeth (? Quincia) (d 1675) by whom he had 4 sons and 4 daughters. He married second on 27 Jul 1676 at Fishlake, Yorks West Riding to Hannah Garth (no known children). Two of Byard's children were christened with unusual biblical names. The boy's name Onesiphorus (1671) is mentioned in *2 Timothy ii 16 and iv 19* whilst the girl's name Zerbiah (or Zerviah) (1673) is probably Zibiah mentioned in *2 Kings (xii 1)* and *2 Chronicles (xxiv 1)*. [NB: Henry Byard of London presbyterian minister e1637-1666 was a contemporary clergyman.]

Richard Chantry (presbyterian minister of Weeford) c1631-1694 R13
Chantry, born about 1631, was a son of John Chantry of Repton, Derbys husbandman. He was educated at Repton. He studied at Cambridge where on 21 Jun 1649 he was admitted as a sizar at St John's College and matriculated that year. At Cambridge he graduated B.A. in 1652.3. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman before 30 Oct 1654 when after nomination by the *Trustees for the maintenance of preaching ministers* (at the request of the parishioners) he was *established* as presbyterian minister of Weeford parochial curacy and on 6 Nov 1654 approved by the *Commission for approbation of public preachers*. His certificate of fitness was signed by Derbyshire ministers. On 20 Feb 1654.5 he was ordained as a presbyterian clergyman by the Wirksworth Classis, Derbys. In 1655 he certified the fitness of candidates for the ministry. In 1659 he was in receipt of an augmentation of £80 to his annual salary. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate. In Jan 1661.2 he paid a clerical subsidy of 5/0. Whilst at Weeford his ministry was encouraged by John Swinfen of Swinfen in Weeford Esquire 1613-1694. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be

deprived but remained at Weeford. Under *The five mile act* (31 Oct 1665), which prohibited nonconformist clergy from entering within 5 miles of parliamentary corporations such as Lichfield (which Weeford bordered), he was forced to move. *Calamy* records in 1702 he was forced "to remove with his Wife and Four Children into another Country to take a Farm upon a Rack Rent His Family encreas'd and he met with several Difficulties and yet subsisted chearfully". The farm is said to have been in Derbyshire perhaps at Smisby where on 13 May 1672 he was licensed as a presbyterian teacher at his own house. He was still living there in 1689 when at Derbyshire Quarter Sessions he took the oath required of ministers. A manuscript survey of dissenting ministers taken about 1691 has under Derbyshire "Att Hartshorne an aged ejected minister hath 9 children who have all Some part of their dependence on him is afflicted with a great lameness and not able to goe without helpe, preacheth 3 Sabbaths in the month, the people poore not able to allow more then £4 odd mony pr quarter, of wch Mr Tym: Cox [Timothy Cox **QV**] hath a 1/4 part." The same survey under Staffordshire has the entry "Ministers that have a Competent Supply - Mr Ricd Chantry - [ejected Minister] Of Weeford - able to goe abroad every Lords day 4. 5. or 6 miles for 9/0 or 7/0 pr day and horse hire paid out of it". In his case the survey was evidently in error. Whilst at Hartshorne he received £8 pa from the *Common Fund*. Chantry died, aged about 63, on 22 Jul 1694 at Hartshorne and was buried here (perhaps as requested in the church yard) on 24 Jul. A funeral sermon was preached by a close friend Samuel Shaw (presbyterian minister of Long Whatton, Leics) c1635-1695. Both Chantry and Shaw were born and educated at Repton and then studied at St John's College, Cambridge. His will made on 30 Jun 1694 was proved under Lichfield on 19 Feb 1694.5. His personalty was valued at £26/15/0 and included " Itm his bookes £3". Chantry married about 1657 to Deborah by whom he had 9 children (perhaps 4 sons and 5 daus). Robert Chantry (minister of Staines, Middx) 1664-p1734 was one of his sons.

Richard Clayton (*compliant* minister of Seighford) ?1595-1669 **R14**

Clayton, (? christened on 15 Sep 1595 at Maer), was probably a son of William Clayton of Maer. He studied at Cambridge where at Easter 1617 he matriculated as a pensioner from St John's College. At Cambridge he graduated B.A. in 1620.1 (M.A., 1624). On 21 Dec 1623 he was ordained deacon and on 22 Dec 1623 ordained priest both by Peterborough. On 8 Jan 1623.4 after presentation by Henry Leigh of Rushall Esquire c1569-1630 he was instituted rector of Shawell, Leics. It was stated in a letter dated 25 Oct 1638 to the diocesan authorities that "he has been at Rugby, and there received the communion at the hands of Mr. Nalton, parson, of Rugby [James Nalton (rector of Rugby, Warwicks) c1599-1662], standing, and not kneeling [as was anglican practice]". He was, as a Leicestershire representative, a member of the *Westminster assembly of divines* on 25 April 1642. From 5 Feb 1643.4 he may have continued here as *compliant* minister but presumably resigned before 1644 when he was a preacher at Southwark St Olave, Surrey. By 20 Feb 1644.5 he was *compliant* minister of Great Easton, Essex where one of his children was buried on 8 Jun 1648. Apparently a committed presbyterian, he signed the *Essex testimony* of ?Jul 1648. Probably later in 1648 he was appointed by the *Committee for plundered ministers* as *compliant* joint minister of Lichfield St Mary. He and (his fellow joint minister) Francis Tallents c1619-1708 each received an augmentation of £37.50 to their salary for the three months (to 24 Jun 1649) and Clayton received a further £37.50 for the following three months. He may have served here until 1651 when he became *compliant* minister of Weston-under-Lizard rectory. On 16 Jun 1652 he was appointed *compliant* assistant minister of Wolverhampton where Ambrose Sparry 1613-1679 was ?presbyterian minister. On 10 May 1654 the *Trustees for the maintenance of preaching ministers* reported that Sparry needed assistance "because the parish was very large and contained several chapelries for the maintenance of which no provision had been made up to this time". On 28 Aug 1654 he was appointed an *assistant commissioner for the ejection of scandalous ministers* in Staffordshire. He frequently certified the fitness of candidates for the ministry while at Wolverhampton (and later at Seighford). On 29 Aug 1655 he was approved by the *Commission for approbation of public preachers* as *compliant* minister of Seighford vicarage where in 1658 he was granted an augmentation of £20 to his annual salary. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* vicar and on 2 Jan 1661.2 paid a clerical subsidy of £2. At the Stafford jail delivery of 17 Aug 1660 he was indicted for refusing to read the "book containing the proclamation". It is unclear which book this was but he appears to have denied the charge and was bound in £20 then and again on 8 Mar 1661.2 and 21 Jul 1662. Clayton must be considered to have coercively resigned about Feb 1661.2. At Seighford his successor John Wright ?1636-1682 was presented by the Crown on 27 Feb 1661.2 and instituted on 4 Mar 1661.2. During Easter 1662 at Stafford Quarter Sessions Wright was ordered to make restitution for forcibly dispossessing Clayton of church and glebe. It is said that next "After some time he remov'd to Nuneaton in Warwickshire where he lived many Years. Dr Wild Wild [Robert Wild D.D. (rector of Tatenhill) c1616-1679] being there at the same Time, there was such an Intimacy and Friendship between these two that they were to each other as *David* and J*onathan.* Mr Cleyton was a good Scholar a sound Divine and one of strict Piety. He was very courteous and obliging in his Temper and Carriage and at the same Time very sedate and grave but not morose. His whole Life adorn'd Religion, and his sacred Character. He was that perfect and upright Man whom the *Psalmist* speaks of, whose *End* is said to be *Peace*." At Nuneaton Clayton died, aged about 74, and was buried there on 12 Feb 1668.9. His will made on 5 Feb 1668.9 was proved under *PCC* on 1 Dec

1669. Clayton married first about 1624 to Frances by whom he had 3 sons and 4 daughters. He married second perhaps about 1650 to Dorothy Wright c1609-1654 dau of Simon Wright of Fulford in Stone c1577-1649 and widow of John Worswick of Stafford ?1604-a1632 (no known children). He married third on 27 Nov 1655 at Walsall to (a widow) Elizabeth Cock of Plymouth, Devon (no known children). Clayton's will contains a religious preamble : "[I] doe sincerely protest my detestation of all Popish and Arminian Errors and doe desire by Gods grace to live and die in cordiall Adherence to those divine Truthes of the Doctrine of the Church of England as they are more fully held forth in the Confession of faith agreed upon by the Assembly of Divines at Westminster". In his will Clayton makes gifts of various named books and mentions many relatives including several of his step-children. [NOTE: In 1658 Clayton was the plaintiff in a court case regarding property in Maer and he is then probably the man christened on 15 Sep 1595 at Maer as son of William Clayton. It is also said that he was born at Coton Clanford in Seighford as son of William.] [NOTE: Richard Clayton may be confused with two contemporaries viz: Richard Clayton (vicar of Great Wilbraham, Cambs) c1596-?1647; and Richard Clayton (prebendary of Salisbury) D.D. c1603-1676.]

George Cross (presbyterian minister of Clifton Campville) c1610-1665 R15

Cross, born about 1610, is of unknown parentage. He studied at Oxford where about 1613 he was a student at St John's College. At Oxford he graduated B.A. on 27 Jan 1631.2 (M.A., 2 Nov 1634). He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman about 1637 for he is said to have "preached for 9 years without ordination" before he was ordained as a presbyterian clergyman by a presbytery about 1646. Earlier he was chaplain to "Lady Scudamore" at Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks where he became a friend of Anthony Burgess c1606-1664 [ODNB] who had been instituted as rector there on 3 Nov 1635. "Lady Scudamore" was Ruth Hampden 1575-1649 sister of William Hampden of Great Hampden, Bucks 1570-1597 whose wife Elizabeth Cromwell was aunt of Oliver Cromwell *the Protector* 1599-1658. On 7 Aug 1646 the *Committee for plundered ministers* recommended the *Westminster assembly of divines* to issue Cross with a certificate of fitness as presbyterian minister of Clifton Campville rectory. However in Sep 1646 William Barton c1598-1678 (formerly vicar of Mayfield but then presbyterian minister of London St John Zachary) also petitioned (unsuccesfully) for this office. On 22 Apr 1647 Cross was appointed and was then described as a godly and orthodox divine and ordered to preach diligently to the parishioners. On 24 Sep 1647 Cross's predecessor Henry Gilbert c1608-1664 wrote a letter warning parishioners not to pay tithes "to the present usurper yt they come to no damage when laws recover their force" and the same year (unsuccessfully) sued Cross for possession of the living. Apparently a committed presbyterian, he signed the *Staffordshire testimony* of Jul 1648 as "George Crosse Pastor of Clifton Camville". In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* rector. About Sep 1660 he was displaced in office by (the former rector) Henry Gilbert who alleged that he had never been paid his *fifth*. Cross and his family then moved to London where they lived with Richard Hampden 1631-1695 (grandson of William, above). In 1665 the "Great Plague" broke out in London and Cross moved back to the Midlands. One of his children had been infected and died at the house of Samuel Shaw (presbyterian minister of Long Whatton, Leics) c1635-1695 who was then living at Cotes, Leics. Cross and his wife then moved to Basford, Notts. Shortly after both died here of the plague - first his wife and then Cross himself, aged about 55, on 8 Aug 1665. Cross married about 1660 to Ann Whitehall c1637-1665 dau of Joseph Whitehall of Whitehall in Ipstones gentleman c1611-c1680 by whom he may have had 1 son and 1 daughter. Judith Cross (b c1633) who married on 29 Sep 1658 at Polesworth, Warwicks to Thomas Ford (presbyterian assistant minister of Clifton Campville) c1633-?1679 is said to have been George's sister. *Calamy* records in 1713 "[Cross] Was a considerable Scholar, a judicious Divine, and a fervent Preacher; and had a clear Head, a solid Judgment, and a wonderful Memory. ... He was always averse to appearing from the Press, which made him not so well known to the World as some others, not superior to him in Abilities. "

----- Davenport (?presbyterian minister of Newchapel) e1622-.... R16

Calamy records in 1702 that a "Mr Davenport" had been removed from Newchapel parochial curacy. He was probably only educated to literate grade. No other definite record of this man has been discovered. On 27 Feb 1656.7 John Davenport, then parish clerk of Kingsley, was appointed their parish register. In his will made on 6 Apr 1665 Samuel Hall (presbyterian minister of Barlaston) c1635-1665 **QV** requested that he "be carried to my place of buriall by [four] worthy friends" which included "Mr Davenport".

Joseph Eccleshall B.A. (presbyterian minister of Sedgley) 1633-1692 R17

Eccleshall, christened on 1 Dec 1633 at Kinver, was a son of Henry Eccleshall of Kinver c1603-1670 and Eleanor. He studied at Cambridge where he was admitted a sizar at Emmanuel College on 21 Jun 1650 and matriculated the same year. At Cambridge he graduated B.A. in 1653.4. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 1654 when he preached a "lecture sermon" at Dudley which was heard by some Sedgley parishioners. They requested their *compliant* minister William Parkes c1604-1656 "who was old and weak" to appoint Eccleshall as his assistant. Later that year he was appointed as presbyterian assistant minister and on 27 Oct

1654 was also appointed register. Parkes died in 1656 and after "presentation" by the parliamentarian Henry Stone of Walsall esquire c1605-1689 Eccleshall was appointed presbyterian minister of Sedgley vicarage on 22 May 1657. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* vicar. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. *Calamy* records in 1727:

> "Being single his Father and Mother liv'd with him and kept House and receiv'd what of the Dues was willingly brought in but sued none. He was of a strong Constitution and an obliging facetious pleasant Temper but very serious Laying to Heart the Worth of Souls and the great Number in the Parish he was the more unwearied in his Labours to do them good. This Parish contains nine Villages in it and is very populous by Reason of the Workers of Lime and Cole and Iron. It had been an Heathenish Place till Mr William Fenner's [William Fenner (vicar of Sedgley) c1600-1640] four Years Ministry there which was bless'd with the Conversion of many. And he being forc'd away and succeeded by a weak vicar Prophaneness and Ignorance abounded there at the Time of Mr Eccleshall's first coming among them. Laying therefore all worldly Concerns aside he set himself to his ministerial Work with Zeal Prudence and Diligence both in publick and private. In Publick he read the Scriptures and expounded them and catechiz'd their Youth and preach'd and pray'd with great Fervency and Affection. He had a Voice that reach'd to the farthest Part of the Church which was generally fill'd though it was inlarg'd after his coming by the building of a Gallery the Timber for which was given by Thomas Foley Esq. He would also expound the Word at their own Houses and the vicaridge too as Opportunity offer'd. And he was frequent also in personally instructing elder Persons especially before their Admission to the Sacrament and he would manage it in a most obliging Manner. A great Alteration ap pear'd both in the Numerousness of the Congregation and the Stop put to profane and irreligious Practices which before abounded among them. He preach'd Week day Lectures in neighbouring Parishes and sometimes had neighbouring Ministers to preach in his Church. He did not bring controversial Matters into the Pulpit but preached and press'd plain Scripture Truths in order to Conversion and Sanctification Salvation and Holiness. He rather chose to deal with Opinionists personally and answer their Doubts in private than confute their Notions publickly.When it became necessary he studied the Terms of Conformity and preach'd his Farewel Sermon on Aug 17 1662 to a large Congregation cover'd with Tears. And on Aug 24 none coming to officiate he went into the Pew pray'd and read Scripture expounded and preach'd and came there no more.

After ejection Eccleshall stayed in Sedgley but moved to a house about one mile from the church. This might be the house of his father Henry who was assessed on 3 hearths in 1665. At this time he continued to attend church and in private also preached to and helped some of his old parishioners. Under *The five mile act* (31 Oct 1665), which prohibited nonconformist clergy from entering within 5 miles of parishes in which they had acted as clergmen since 1660, he was forced to move. He then moved back to his birthplace Kinver. *Calamy* records in 1727:

> [The act] forc'd him to Kinfare where he also preach'd in private and went afterwards with his Hearers to the publick Church to hear Mr Jonathan Newey a worthy Man who succeeded Mr Morton at Kinfare. [Richard Morton (presbyterian minister) 1637-1698 was ejected in 1662 and succeded by Jonathan Newey (parochial curate) ?1637-1716]. He came from thence secretly by Night to to his own People not daring to be seen by Day to do what Service he could and return'd back again by Night till the Rigour of the Times abated.

By 1669 Eccleshall had returned to Sedgley where he held a presbyterian conventicle at his own house which attracted about 200 worshippers. The same year "Mr Eccleshall" was one of four preachers at Coventry Leather Hall, Warwicks. In 1672 he was licensed as a presbyterian teacher in his house at Sedgley and the same year one "Ralph[sic] Ecclesole" was similarly licensed in "Wm Keels howse in Darleton [?Darlaston]". Ralph might be an error for Joseph. *Calamy* records in 1727:

> Then he appear'd in publick and continu'd his ministerial Work among his old People with little Allowance from them living upon a little Estate of his own chiefly with Frugality and Care. There were two Meetings kept up in the Parish because of its Largeness at two or three Miles Distance and Mr Eccleshall administer'd the Sacrament in both. Here he continu'd his Service several Years till at last he was silenc'd by Death.

A manuscript survey of dissenting ministers taken about 1691 has under Staffordshire the entry "Ministers that may want a Supply - mr Eccleshall - At Sedgley where he was minister hath little." In his later years Eccleshall preached at a meeting house at Coseley probably a precursor of a chapel which was built in 1717 on Old Meeting Road in
Old End later known as "Coseley Old Meeting House". Eccleshall died, aged 59, and was buried at Sedgley on 22 Dec 1692. His funeral sermon was preached by Henry Oasland (presbyterian minister of Bewdley, Worcs) 1625-1703 on [Zechariah 1:5] "*Your fathers, where are they ? ...*" His will dated 24 Aug 1692 was proved under Lichfield on 17 Nov 1693. His personalty was valued at £235 and included "Bookes to the number 180 £12". In his will he requests that payment be made to "an able sound preacher, or preachers in the meeting house at Coseley where I preached" and bequeathes "to such poor schollers as my Executors shall think fitt all my Latine & other books relating to contraversies, And all my other books of practical divinity I give to my said sonne Thomas Dudley, desireing his carefull perusall of them ...". Eccleshall married about 1663 to Martha (d 1670) by whom he had 1 daughter: Martha wife of Thomas Dudley of "The Greenhouse", Dudley.

William Fincher (presbyterian minister of Wednesbury) c1628-1691 **R18**

Fincher, born about 1628, was 7th son of John Fincher of Shell in Himbleton, Worcs "gentleman" c1583-c1663 and Elizabeth (Hanbury). He was probably only educated to literate grade. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 28 Feb 1654.5 when after presentation by

Oliver Cromwell (? *qua* the *Protector)* he was approved by the *Commission for approbation of public preachers* as presbyterian minister of Wednesbury vicarage. In 1657 he certified the fitness of candidates for the ministry. In 1659 he was in receipt of an augmentation of £30 to his annual salary. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* vicar. On 2 Jan 1661.2 he paid a clerical subsidy of 6/8. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. Subsequently he preached at Gornal in Sedgley. On 6 Sep 1665 Robert Greville 4th Baron Brooke of Beauchamps Court c1638-1677 (then Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire) reported that he had "secured" four ejected ministers in Staffordshire - John Nott 1625-1702 **QV**, Richard Hincks e1622-1683 **QV**, Richard Hilton c1625-1706 **QV** and Fincher. That year Hilton and Fincher were both probably living at Walsall where "Richard Hilton" and "Mr Fincher" were both assessed on 3 hearths. In 1669 Fincher, Hilton and five other named ministers were preachers at the Walsall houses of Mrs Pearson, Mr Fowler and Mr Eves. (In 1665 Richard Hilton was a neighbour of George Pearson - 6 hearths- whilst Fincher was a neighbour of Edward Eames *?recte* Eves - 4 hearths). Fincher then returned to live near his birthplace Himbleton where he preached at the home of his sister Sarah's husband Robert Mence. In 1669 he was a preacher at Darlaston, Walsall and Wednesbury. By 22 Jul 1672 he was living at Birmingham, Warwicks when he was licensed as a presbyterian preacher and his house was licensed as a meeting-place. On 6 Jul 1689 a chapel at Birmingham (later known as Birmingham Old Meeting House) was licensed in the names of (its first minister) William Turton (presbyterian minister of Rowley Regis) c1629-1716 **QV**, Thomas Baldwin (presbyterian minister of Clent) c1627-?1701 **QV** and Fincher. Probably the next year Baldwin and Fincher are together recorded as ministers "Att Birmingham, of one Congregation well provided for each of them £30 per annum". Fincher died, aged about 63, and was buried on 27 Jul 1691 at Birmingham. His will made on 13 Jul 1691 was proved under *PCC* on 4 Dec 1691. His personalty was about £900. In his will he bequeathed his son Samuel "my house bible and pocket bible", his daughter Elizabeth "my bible which I com'only used in the Pulpit" and his daughter Catherine "my great bible". Fincher married first in 1655 at Kings Norton, Worcs to Elizabeth Cross of Staffs (d ?1684) by whom he had 2 sons and 2 daughters. He married second about 2 May 1688 to Honor (widow of ----- Marston) (no known children). *Calamy* records in 1702 that Fincher was "a Godly Man and a good Preacher" and in 1727 he was "an heavenly good Man and of a most sweet Temper very humble and never seen in a Passion". Two of Fincher's older brothers were clergymen. George Fincher B.A. (rector of Acton Beauchamp, Worcs) c1610-c1675 complied during the presbyterian intrusion and conformed thereafter whilst Richard Fincher B.A. (presbyterian minister of Worcester All Saints-cum-St Nicholas) c1626-1693 was to be deprived in 1662 and then served as a presbyterian minister.

Timothy Fox (presbyterian minister of Drayton Bassett) 1628-1710 **R19**

Fox, born on 12 Oct 1628 and christened the same day at Birmingham, was fifth son of Edward Fox of Birmingham, Warwicks mercer c1573-1640 and Elizabeth Greisbrooke dau and heir of Hugh Greisbrooke of Hints c1546-1617. He was educated at Aston, Warwicks under John Bryan and at Birmingham under Mr Billingsley. He studied at Cambridge where he was admitted as a pensioner at Christ's College on 23 Mar 1646.7 and matriculated in 1647.8 but did not graduate. About 1650 he was ordained as a presbyterian minister by Thomas Porter (minister of Whitchurch, Salop) and other ministers. Whitchurch was a member of the 4th Shropshire (or Bradford North) classis. On 6 Jul 1650 he was presented by the *Commissioners of the great seal* as presbyterian minister of Drayton Bassett rectory in succession to John Buckbery ?1594-1649 whose daughter he married at Drayton Bassett on 26 Aug 1650. About 1650 he is said to have "refused the engagement". On 24 Feb 1651 when he compounded for first fruits his security was Thomas Fox of Tamworth doubtless his brother Thomas Fox 1623-1666 (sometime Colonel of the Parliamentary Army and M.P. for Tamworth). In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* rector. In Jan 1661.2 he paid a clerical subsidy of £1. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. Shortly afterwards he moved to Tamworth. *Calamy* records in 1702 "[He] was put upon a New way to maintain his Wife, and Five small Children, and upon the Advice of Friends, he was encourag'd to settle in a Corporation near to him, where by his Pen, and help of Relations, he had a comfortable Livelihood". Under *The five mile act* (31 Oct 1665), which prohibited nonconformist clergy from entering within 5 miles of parliamentary corporations such as Tamworth, he was forced to move. Fox then rented a farm in Derbyshire perhaps at Ticknall where he was living by 1669 when he was licensed to preach in his own house and at any other licensed place. Similar licences were issued in 1672 when his house was licensed as a presbyterian meeting place. Many years later in May 1684 Fox visited Derby and under *The five mile act* was imprisoned there. *Calamy* records in 1713 "Yet afterwards he was imprison'd in Derby Goal upon that Act, being Apprehended, not in any Exercise of Religion, but only coming to see his Son an Apprentice in that Town: He was taken up immediately ... and continu'd a Prisoner till the November following. He was Confin'd a second time [about Feb 1684.5] in Chester Goal, (with several other neighbouring Ministers and Gentlemen) being carry'd thither without any Cause of their Imprisonment assign'd. After a Months Confinement he was discharg'd, giving £600 Security for his good Behaviour; that is, being himself bound in £200 and his two Sureties each of them in the like Sum." Fox had moved to Caldwell, Derbys by 1689 when his house was certified at Derbyshire Quarter Sessions as a place of worship. A manuscript survey of dissenting ministers

taken about 1691 has under Staffordshire the entry "Mr Tim: Fox - [Minister] Of Drayton Bassett aged and dark and preacheth not" and under Derbyshire two entries: (1) Ministers that have a competent supply - Mr Tim: Fox ... An aged Ejected minister preaches at Severall places and (2) Ministers that [?have] a Supply - Mr Tim: Fox ... An aged ejected minister, preaches once a mo at Hartshorn ... At Hartshorn he had a quarter part of a payment made to Richard Chantry **QV**. On 4 May 1691 he was reported as preaching at Appleby, Leics "one Sabbath in the month". Fox died, aged 82, on 30 May 1710 probably at Caldwell. His will made on 2 Apr 1707 was proved under Lichfield on 17 Nov 1710. His personalty was valued at £312/6/6 and included "Item Books in Study £10". Fox married first on 26 Aug 1650 at Drayton Bassett to Lettice Buckbery 1634-1665 dau of John Buckbery (rector of Drayton Bassett) ?1594-1649 by whom he had 4 sons and 3 daughters. He married second about 1670 to Frances Richardson c1642-1712 dau of John Richardson and widow of Francis Ward (parochial curate of Ticknall, Derbys) c1638-?1667 by whom he had 1 son and 2 daughters.

William Grace M.A. (*compliant* minister of Shenstone, Staffs) ?1609-1699 R20

Grace, born about 1609 (? and christened on 29 Feb 1608.9 at Desford) was probably 3rd son of Thomas Grace of Desford, Leics c1561-.... and Joan (Greene). He studied at Cambridge where in Easter 1627 he matriculated as a sizar from Clare College. At Cambridge he graduated B.A. in 1629.30 (M.A., 1633). He was presumably ordained deacon and priest before 11 or 20 May 1635 when after presentation by the Crown (on 15 Apr) he was instituted vicar of Shenstone. Shortly after 5 Feb 1643.4 he was appointed *compliant* minister of Rearsby, Leics in succession to the rector Cadwallader Jones c1618-?1676 who had refused to sign the *Solemn league and covenant* and was consequently removed. At Shenstone he may have *jointly* continued but Arthur Walker is said to have been in office here cJan 1651.2 and on 20 Jul 1655 Gamaliel Tunstall ?1629-1668 was admitted as presbyterian minister. Whilst at Rearsby Grace was on 3 Jun 1658 an *assistant commissioner for the ejection of scandalous ministers* in Leicestershire and in 1658 and 1659 signed the *Leicestershire Addresses to Richard Cromwell.* Here he was described as "a serious humble grave Person well esteemed of by his Parish but especially by Major Hubbart and his Family for the Holiness of his Life and his edifying Preaching." In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* rector of Rearsby but was displaced when by *An act for the confirming and restoring of ministers* (13 Sep 1660) Jones was restored as rector in 1660 and (again) instituted on 2 Nov 1660. At about the same time, probably by the same act, Grace was restored as vicar of Shenstone and may have displaced Tunstall who was still in office in 1659. However *Calamy* records in 1713 that " [Tunstall] was not a Non conformist but Ejected for a scandalous Life." At Shenstone Grace paid a clerical subsidy of 5/0 in Jan 1661.2 but on 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. *Pearse* writes in 1683:

> "Mr. *Grace*, upon his Ejectment from his Living, on which he lived comfortably, was with his Wife and eleven Children reduced to Straits. Hoping to get some Supplies of Maintenance, he took a Farm of about Thirty Pounds *per an.* ... He was in a short time after his other Troubles, apprehended by Justices, and, with many of his Hearers, bound over, which was very chargeable. Not long after, he was sent for by a Party of Horse, called out of his Bed, and carried Prisoner to Stafford, for what he knew not, nor was ever told. He being unable to bear the Charge of his imprisonment, made application to the Deputy-Lieutenants, was forced to give in Bond of a hundred Pounds, to appear when called. He was dismissed, after many hard Speeches, but no Charge laid against him."

In 1665 he was assessed on 4 hearths at Footherly in Shenstone. That year he was presented by the churchwardens for holding conventicles in his house. Under *The five mile act* (31 Oct 1665), which prohibited nonconformist clergy from entering within 5 miles of parliamentary corporations such as Lichfield (which Weeford bordered) he was forced to move "five Miles from the Corporation, to a Place where he lived at great Costs and Charges, separated from his dear Relations, and his Farm left to the management of Servants, which proved exceedingly to his Loss. He moved to Syston, Leics where he paid hearth tax in 1666. In 1669 he was preacher of a presbyterian conventicle at Rearsby which attracted about 20 worshippers and in 1672 was licensed as a presbyterian teacher at the house of John Panells in Rugeley. By 1690 Grace had returned to Shenstone where he received a grant of £5 pa from the *Common Fund* until Sep 1699. A manuscript survey of dissenting ministers taken about 1691 has under Staffordshire two entries. First is an entry scored out "Ministers that have a Competent Supply - Mr Wm Grace - [ejected Minister] Of Shenston. Second is an entry "Ministers that may want a Supply - mr Grace ejected - At Shenston, is blind and Indigent, can goe noe where to preach." In Jun 1697 his son Robert (then vicar of Shenstone) called his father "the most conformable person in his parish at prayers and receiving the sacrament". Grace died, aged about 90, on 6 Nov 1699 and was buried at Shenstone on 10 Nov. His son Job erected a monument to his parents in the church (below). Grace married on 23 Jun 1635 Newton Regis, Warwicks to Joan Wolley c1617-1669 dau of Thomas Wolley of Newton Regis/Newton in the Thistles, Warwicks "gentleman" c1587-1635 (and Joyce Purefoy dau of Francis Purefoy of Caldecote, Warwicks gentleman c1564-1613) by whom he probably had 8 sons and 3 daughters. Joan's family had influential relations. Her father Thomas was a kinsman (probably a first cousin) of Gilbert Sheldon (Archbishop of Canterbury) 1588-1677. Her mother Joyce was a sister of William Purefoy of Caldecote, Warwicks gentleman c1584-1659 who was a prominent parliamentarian and a regicide and also a cousin of both Henry Grey 10th Earl of Kent 1594-1651 and his sister "Lady" Magdalen Grey (wife of John Browne of Stretton-en-le-Field, Leics

c1581-1669) who were the children of her aunt Joyce Purefoy (wife of Anthony Grey 9th Earl of Kent 1557-1643). *Calamy* records in 1727 "[Grace] was nearly related to Archbishop Sheldon to whom Applications were made for his poor distress'd Family but no Relief could be obtained there unless Mr Grace would conform which if he would yield to great Things were promis'd But this mov'd him not to act against his Conscience Some time after (I am inform'd) the Bishop recover'd so much Humanity as to take some Care o' two of the Children". A later writer records "[Grace's sons] Job and Robert were educated at the expence of [? the family of] Henry Grey, earl: of Kent, their relation on the mother's side, who also sent them to the university of Cambridge, and supported them there seven years, till they had taken their degrees of Master of Arts. ... The reverend William Grace had also three daughters, who fell, likewise into good hands, for lady Magdalen, sister of Henry earl of Kent, ... in the time of their father's distress, took them under her protection either till her death, or till some provision was made for them, and [they] married ...". Two of Grace's sons became anglican clergymen: Robert Grace M.A. (vicar of Shenstone) c1639-1727 and Job Grace M.A. (Treasurer of Lichfield) c1641-1719.

(Shenstone church, M.I.) "[Greek quotation] Quod reliquum est Gulielmi Grace, A.M. | huiusque Ecclesiæ ritu Anglicano olim | vicarii, hic reconditur. | Juxta jacet Joanna Grace, praefati Gulielmi conjux unica. | E vivis excessit; illa anno | a Christo nato MDCLXVIII, | ætatis suæ præter propter LII; | Nonagenarius ille & ultra decessit | tandem et in fide Christi obdormivit, | VII idus Novembris, æræ Christianæ MDCXCIX | J. Grace, ecclesiæ cathedralis Lichfield Thesaurarius, | eiudemque Gulielmi ex Joannâ filius, | hunc lapidem sepulchralem pariter ac inscriptum | in memoriam parentum posuit, sacravit."

John Greensmith M.A. (presbyterian minister of Colwich) ?1629-1666 **R21**

Greensmith, born about 1629 (? and christened on 23 Aug 1629 at Birmingham) was probably son of Thomas Greensmith of Birmingham, Warwicks skinner c1599-1649 and Jane. He studied at Oxford where on 29 Jan 1648.9 he matriculated as a commoner from Magdalen Hall. At Oxford he graduated B.A. on 16 Nov 1651 (M.A., 30 Jun 1654). On 31 May 1654 after presentation by Oliver Cromwell (? *qua* the *Protector)* he was approved by the *Commission for approbation of public preachers* as presbyterian minister of Colwich vicarage. Apparently the same day the *Trustees for the maintenance of preaching ministers* granted him an augmentation of £80 to his annual salary of £20 which was paid for about five years. On 28 Aug 1654 he was appointed an *assistant commissioner for the ejection of scandalous ministers* in Staffordshire. On 22 Aug 1655 he was to be ordained as a presbyterian clergyman at Kniveton, Derbys. The previous day at Wirksworth Classis, Derbys Greensmith had preached a sermon and defended his thesis *An detur peccatum regnans in eternatis.* The classis ordered that he should be "ordained *a preaching Presbyter* in the Parish church at Kniveton the next day being the 22 day of August ...". On 27 Jul 1659 Augustine Schoolecroft 1633-1700 is noted as his assistant minister. About 1657 to 1660 Greensmith was a lecturer at Stafford St Mary. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* vicar of of Colwich. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. He probably lived on at Colwich until he died, aged about 37, and was buried here on 22 Aug 1666. His nuncupative will was made on 25 Jun 1666 and proved under Lichfield on 17 Jul 1667. He bequeathed his books to Schoolecroft (above) who had been instituted vicar of Colwich in Feb 1662.3 and on 6 Dec 1666 at Colwich married Sarah Greensmith ?1633-1687 (doubtless John's sister). Greensmith may not have married.

Ralph Hall (parochial curate of Maer) e1604-1685 **R22**

Hall, born perhaps about 1604, is of unknown parentage. He and his first wife were probably living in Cheshire about 1635 when their son was born. Hall was probably only educated to literate grade. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 6 Jun 1648 when as minister of Knutsford (in Rostherne), Cheshire he signed the *Cheshire Attestation*. On 29 Jul 1648 he petitioned the House of Commons. About 1650 he is said to have "refused the engagement". On 14 Nov 1654 as "late of Knottesford in the Countie of Chester, Clerke" he was appointed presbyterian minister of Newcastle parochial chapelry by Newcastle Borough in succession to Joseph Sond. He was to have a salary of £60 pa and free accommodation (or an extra £5 pa). In addition he might procure an augmentation. On 7 Mar 1654.5 he was appointed a burgess of Newcastle for his life and on 19 Jun 1655 he was given the "the Fees belonging to the church". On 26 Oct 1655 he was approved by the *Commission for approbation of public preachers* and about this time the *Trustees for the maintenance of preaching ministers* granted him an augmentation of £50 to his annual salary which was paid for about five years. On 5 Nov 1656 he was to rent (a piece of land) "Parsons Flatt" for three years. By Jun 1658 a serious disagreement apparently about tithes and augmentations arose between the Borough and Hall and on 29 Sep 1659 the Borough decided to remove him. The minutes read "Propounded a second tyme whether Mr Hall were unfitt to stay in this place by reason of his actings. It was agreed that he is unfitt and that he should remove and have his money payd him that is due unto him." He likely left soon after but on 4 Apr 1660, as a life burgess, was still a Newcastle elector. About Jan 1661.2 he succeded William Dicken c1620-1682 as parochial curate of Maer and that month paid a clerical subsidy of 5/0. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. Shortly afterwards he moved to Chester "where he was Pastor of that Congregation of Dissenters who afterwards invited Mr Matthew Henry, to be their Pastor". Still in office at Chester he was imprisoned in Chester City or Northgate Prison under *The five mile act* (31 Oct 1665) which

prohibited nonconformist clergy from entering within 5 miles of parliamentary corporations such as Chester. Whilst in prison he converted a convicted murderer. An account of this event was written in 1716:

> The Soldier's Name was Spooner, one that had been a very loose and profligate Man and was concerned with others in a drunken Riot, in which a poor Man lost his Life. Mr Hall ... was sent a Prisoner ... for six Months, for no other Fault than preaching the Gos[p]el; but God sent him thither for good to this poor Criminal, who lay in the Gall of Bitterness and Bond of Iniquity. Mr Hall found him very ignorant and stupid but God was pleased to bless the serious Discourse he had with him, and the fervent Prayers he put up to God with him and for him; Conscience was awakened to purpose, and God sealed his Instruction; a wonderful Change was wrought in him in a little time, and he made such a Declaration of the Manner of God's Working upon his Soul when he came to die, and of the Benefit he had received by Mr Hall's Instruction and Prayers, as very much affected all that heard him, and indeed filled the whole City with wonder, every one looking upon him as such another Monument of Freegrace as the Thief on the Cross, and glorifying God on his Behalf; that good old Minister thought his six Months Imprisonment abundantly compensated by being an Instrument of so much Good to a precious Soul, that was in so much danger of perishing for ever.

In 1672 he was licensed to be a presbyterian preacher in his own house at Weaverham, Cheshire and his houses there and at Grange Lane, Chester were licensed as meeting-places. By 1681 Hall had moved to Little Budworth, Cheshire where he died, aged about 81, and was buried on 21 Dec 1685. His will made on 7 Jun 1681 was proved under Chester on 13 Feb 1685.6. In his will his wife is "to take ten of my English bookes" and he mentions his grandson Samuel Hall who he hoped "would make an emin't instrument of his [God's] glory ". This was Samuel Hall (?presbyterian minister of Tiverton, Devon) 1662-1730 who was the younger son of Ralph's son Samuel Hall (presbyterian minister of Barlaston) c1635-1665 **QV** who predeceased his father. Hall married first about 1634 to a woman by whom he had 1 son (Samuel). He married second on 22 Oct 1661 at Swynnerton to Susan Beard (d 1679) (no known children) and third about 1681 to Hester (no known children). Hall was most probably the author of *Quakers principles quaking ...* (1656) which had a preface written by Zachariah Crofton (then presbyterian minister of London St Botolph's Aldgate) c1626-1672. A reply to the book was written by William Anderson of Liverpool later the same year.

- Ralph Hall Quakers principles quaking: or, pretended light proved darkness, and perfections found to be greatest imperfections. in an answer to a written paper, subscribed with the name of Thomas Holme, and scattered through the country about Liverpool in Lancashire. London: Printed by R. I. and are to be sold by Edm. Paxton, neer Doctors Commons, and Tho. Parkhurst, over against the great Conduit in Cheapside (1656) [NOTE: The book has a seven page preface entitled "Unto the christian reader, especially the inhabitants about Liverpool, and Walton in Lancashire" signed "Zach[ariah]. Crofton April 17. 1656"
- William Anderson of Liverpool, Lancashire An answer to a book titled "Quaker's principles quaking", subscribed by the name of one Ralph Hale[sic], with an Epistle (so called) to the Reader, subscribed with the name of one Zachariah Crofton. London Printed for Giles Calvert, and are to be sold at his shop at the Black Spread-Eagle, near the west end of Pauls (1656)

Samuel Hall B.A. (presbyterian minister of Barlaston) c1635-1665 **R23**

Hall, born about 1635 in Cheshire, was a son of Ralph Hall (later presbyterian minister of Newcastle) e1604-1685 **QV.** He studied at Cambridge where on 14 May 1652 he was admitted sizar at Jesus College and matriculated the same year. He was tutored by Thomas Woodcock. At Cambridge he graduated B.A. in 1655.6. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 19 Sep 1656 when he was nominated by the *Trustees for the maintenance of preaching ministers* as presbyterian minister of Barlaston parochial curacy and admitted on 25 Sep. On 16 Sep 1657 he was ordained as a presbyterian minister at Prees, Salop by Bradford North Classis together with Philip Henry (presbyterian minister of Worthenbury, Flints) c1630-1696. Whilst at Barlaston he received an augmentation of £50 to his annual salary that had been paid to his predecessor. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate. In Jan 1661.2 he paid a clerical subsidy of 3/0. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. His house at Barlaston had been assessed on one hearth but in 1665 it was recorded "but now the house puld downe". By that year Hall was living at Olton in Stone where he died, aged about 30, and was buried on 12 Apr 1665 (perhaps as requested in the chancel) at Stone. His will made on 6 Apr 1665 was proved under Lichfield on 1 Aug 1665. Hall married on 26 Oct 1656 at Newcastle to Alice Smith by whom he had 2 sons. Both these sons - Jonathan and Samuel - are mentioned in his will and also in his father's will where it is hoped Samuel "would make an emin't instrument of his [God's] glory ". This was Samuel Hall (? presbyterian minister of Tiverton, Devon) 1662-1730. *Calamy* records in 1727 that Hall "had the Reputation of a very pious Person, and an excellent Preacher, as well as of a good Scholar; the latter of which is justif'd by some Manuscripts in the Hands of his Son ..." In his will Hall asked that he "be carried to my place of buriall by my worthy friends Mr Goddard Mr Swynfen Mr Mott & Mr Davenport". The latter three men are probably Richard Swinfen (presbyterian minister of Mavesyn Ridware) 1630-1691 **QV**, John Mott (presbyterian minister of Kings Bromley) e1623-1671 **QV** and ----- Davenport (minister of Newchapel) **QV**.

Richard Hilton (presbyterian minister of West Bromwich) c1625-1706 **R24**

Hilton, born about 1625, was a son of Richard Hilton of Bloxham, Oxon "gentleman" c1581-?1657. He studied at Oxford where on 9 Apr 1641 he matriculated as a commoner from Christ Church. At Oxford he was created B.A. "by virtue of the chancellor's letter" on 17 Dec 1644. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 30 Jul 1648 when he was in office as presbyterian minister of West Bromwich parochial curacy. About 1656 the *Trustees for the maintenance of preaching ministers* granted him an augmentation of £20 to his annual salary. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. On 6 Sep 1665 Robert Greville 4th Baron Brooke of Beauchamps Court c1638-1677 (then Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire) reported that he had "secured" four ejected ministers in Staffordshire - John Nott 1625-1702 **QV**, Richard Hincks e1622-1683 **QV**, Hilton and William Fincher c1628-1691 **QV**. That year Hilton and Fincher were both probably living at Walsall where "Richard Hilton" and "Mr Fincher" were both assessed on 3 hearths. In 1669 Fincher, Hilton and five other named ministers were preachers at the Walsall houses of Mrs Pearson, Mr Fowler and Mr Eves. (In 1665 Richard Hilton was a neighbour of George Pearson - 6 hearths- whilst Fincher was a neighbour of Edward Eames *?recte* Eves - 4 hearths). In 1672 Hilton was licensed as a presbyterian teacher at West Bromwich. Hilton is said to have been sometime chaplain to Philip Foley of Prestwood in Kingswinford Esquire 1648-1716 (who married in 1670 Penelope Paget dau of William Paget 6th Baron Paget of Beaudesert 1609-1678). In later life Hilton returned to live at Walsall where in 1690 he was maintaining a lecture even though he received "little assistance though many able men in the town". His house was licensed for worship in 1693. On 4 Mar 1705.6 he was reported to the Fund Board as "old above 80" and having an assistant John Godly to whom a grant of £6 was paid until 1729. Hilton died, aged about 81, and was buried on 16 Sep 1706 at Walsall. His will made on 1 Oct 1705 was proved under Lichfield on 9 Oct 1706. In his will he bequeathes various books (below). His personalty was valued at £51 and included "Item the Books in the Studdy £10". Hilton married at an unknown date to Hannah (no known children). *Calamy* records in 1713 that Hilton "was a good Scholar, a judicious Divine ... A Man of great simplicity and plain heartedness; and a very profitable substantial Preacher. ... He was generally respected, even by the worst of Men; being retir'd, and charitable, and inoffensive in his whole Carriage. In the close of his Days, being ask'd about his Nonconformity, he profess'd an intire Satisfaction in it; hop'd GOD would enable him to do the same again, if it were then to be done. He liv'd in Self-denial among a poor People, doing good both to their Souls and Bodies; and when dying, shew'd his great concern for their future Provision and spiritual Welfare." Hilton had an older brother John Hilton M.A. (parochial curate of Great Barr) c1611-1684 who was ordained as an anglican and subscribed to The act of uniformity. John states in his will "I give unto my brother Mr Richard Hilton of Walsall (if he shall be living after me) all my Latin books and all my papers & wrightings which doe not concern my estate". Richard Hilton states in his will "I give Mr Baxters Christiane Directory, & Mr Clarks Annotations on the Bible to my Cosen Richard Hilton. Likewise I give to my cosen Georg Bret ten books or volumes set down in a scedule hereunto annexed if he doe demand them within a year after my decease. All the rest of my Books I leave and give to Samuel Hunt of Coventry the younger, if he be bred up to the Ministry, or otherwise to be disposed of ... " As mentioned above his books were valued at £10. The two named books in his will were likely: Richard Baxter *A christian directory: Or, a summ of practical theologie, and cases of conscience ...* (1673) and Samuel Clark *The holy bible, containing the old testament and the new: With annotations and parallel Scriptures ...* (1690). The "scedule" lists the following ten volumes:

Marcerus his Commentary on Job, Proverbs of Salomon Ecclessiastes one volume | Spanhemij Dubia Evangelica two volumes [Friderici Spanhemii *Dubia Evangelica]* | Bishop Rainolds works one volume [Edward Reynolds *The works of Edw. Reynolds]* | Cartwright on the Proverbs [Thomas Cartwright *On the proverbs* (1684)] | Pareus on Genesis, on the Ep: to the Romans ~~three C~~ on the Revelation three volumes [Davis Pareus *Genesis* (1609); David Pareus *In divinam ad Romanos S. Pauli ap. epistolam commentarius* (1609); David Pareus *A commentary upon the divine Revelation of the apostle and evangelist John]* | Calvins Institutions [John Calvin *Institutes of Christian Religion]* | Mollerus on the Psalms [? Johannes Mollerus] | Opera Fulgentij one volume [*Opera Fulgentii* (1520)]

Richard Hincks (presbyterian minister of Tipton) e1622-1683 **R25**

Hincks, born perhaps about 1622, is of unknown parentage. He was probably only educated to literate grade.

He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 1650 when he was in office as presbyterian ?assistant minister of Pensax, Worcs. On 25 Jun 1651 he was appointed presbyterian assistant minister of Wolverhampton. In Winter 1651.2 he was presbyterian minister of Bilston parochial curacy and in 1652 presbyterian minister of Tipton parochial curacy. In 1648 the royalist ironmaster Dud Dudley ALIAS Tomlinson of Tipton gentleman c1599-1684 absconded and his estates were probably sequestered. Perhaps after 1652 Hincks purchased one of these estates but at the restoration in 1660 the purchase was declared fraudulent rendering Hincks insolvent. By late 1656 as "Minister at Tipton" he was a member of the *Worcestershire Association.* On 25 Mar 1659 Hincks was in receipt of a quarterly payment of an augmentation to his salary of £10. In Oct 1659 he is said to have assisted in raising soldiers for the army of parliamentary general John Lambert 1619-1684 who attempted (unsuccessfully) to stop George Monck (*later* 1st Duke of Albemarle) 1608-1670 - then in favour of the restoration of the monarchy - marching on London.

In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate. In a petition from Tipton to the Crown dated 7 Jan 1660.1 he is described "as a person notoriously disaffected to His Majesty and his government". Subsequent proceedings at Stafford Assizes continued until 21 Jul 1662 when he was acquitted as not guilty. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived from Tipton. On 20 Jan 1662.3 John Taylor e1623-1673 was licensed as parochial curate of Tipton. He probably also served as parochial curate of Bilston. At Tipton Taylor is said to have allowed Hincks "to live in the parsonage-house, upon easy terms". In fact as a parochial chapelry Bilston would not have had a parsonage (as such) so that the house involved may have been Taylor's personal property. In 1665 Hincks was assessed on 4 hearths at Tipton. On 6 Sep 1665 Robert Greville 4th Baron Brooke of Beauchamps Court c1638-1677 (then Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire) reported that he had "secured" four ejected ministers in Staffordshire - John Nott 1625-1702 **QV**, Hincks, Richard Hilton c1625-1706 **QV** and William Fincher c1628-1691 **QV**. In 1669 Hincks was probably a presbyterian preacher at Darlaston and at Sedgley (where he is called William). On 5 Sep 1672 he was licensed as a congregational teacher and his house at Tipton was certified as a congregational meeting-place. After Taylor's death in 1673 Hincks moved to the parish of Old Swinford, Worcs where he likely lived in the township of Stourbridge. Hincks died, probably aged about 61, and was buried on 22 Dec 1683 at Old Swinford. He married on 29 Nov 1652 at Tipton to Elizabeth Clare (d 1684) by whom he had 7 sons. *Calamy* records in 1727 "And tho before the Change of the Times he was warm and hot yet he then became very cool and moderate and ... died in great Amity with Christians of various Denominations in the County of Stafford".

George Long M.D. (parochial curate of Newcastle) c1629-1712 **R26**

Long, born about 1629 in London, is of unknown parentage. He studied at Cambridge where on 2 Jun 1646 he was admitted as a sizar at Trinity College. At Cambridge he graduated B.A. in 1649.50 (M.A.) 1653. In 1650 he was elected a fellow of Trinity College and served until 1660 when "He was turn'd out of Trinity upon Dr Fern's coming in Master, at the Restauration." Henry Ferne 1602-1662 was granted the mastership on 29 Apr 1660 but only served after 3 Aug 1660. About this time he was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman for after occasionally preaching at Newcastle, he was invited by the parishioners to become their minister. In Jan 1661.2 he was in office as parochial curate of Newcastle and paid a clerical subsidy of 10/0. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. In the following years he probably studied medicine. On 4 Jul 1668 he was admitted as a medical student at Leyden and there he graduated M.D. on 12 Jul 1668 with the thesis *"De convulsione et motibus convulsivis"*. He dedicated his thesis to a cousin George Long and a relative Kenerick Eyton. (Kenrick Eyton of Eyton, Denbighs gentleman c1638-1709, who married in London in 1666, was father of Kenrick Eyton of Eyton, Denbighs gentleman 1670-1718 who was admitted to Trinity College in 1689.) By 1669 Long was living at Leicester where on 22 Jul 1672 he was licensed as a general presbyterian preacher and in Nov 1673 had a son christened. He may shortly after have returned to Newcastle but under *The five mile act* (31 Oct 1665), which prohibited nonconformist clergy from entering within 5 miles of parliamentary corporations such as Newcastle, he was forced to move. *Calamy* records in 1713 "In some time he settled again in Newcastle, and met with great Difficulties. He was indicted at the Assizes for living in a Corporation, and forc'd to remove when he had Seven Children, not knowing whither to go. Attempting to settle at Birmingham, he was Prosecuted there also, till he was forc'd to leave the Land. He fled to Ireland, and continu'd there for some time." By 2 Jun 1680 Long had probably returned to England when he received a bequest of £1 as a "needy minister" from Philip Henry presbyterian minister c1630-1696. About 1684 he is said to have "Visited Chester and administered the Lord's Supper occasionally". He may have been living in Darlington, Durhams when on 31 Oct 1689 he wrote a letter to Lord Wharton asking him "to speak to the King about the immoral conduct of the army at Darlington". In 1690 as a minister with " A competent Supply" he is listed at Darlington [with] "A congregation Setled, well provided for" and also at Coventry, Warwicks "well maintained". About 1692 he returned to Newcastle "and continu'd his Labours there, even beyond the Powers of Nature. till Memory and Intellectuals quite fail'd." The *Common Fund* made him grants here from 1700 until midsummer 1705 when he retired and was then granted £4 pa for life. He subsequently moved to Bristol, Glos where he died, aged about 83, on 26 Dec 1712 and was buried on 29 Dec at Bristol St James. Long married, perhaps about 1663, to Lydia (d 1704) by whom he had (perhaps) 4 sons and 3 daughters. Nathaniel Long (presbyterian minister of Farnham, Surrey and Wrexham, Denbighs) c1674-1706 was one of his sons. A contemporary namesake and possible kinsman George Long (presbyterian minister of Bath, Soms) c1623-1665 also had a son Nathaniel.

Thomas Miles (presbyterian minister of Lichfield St Chad) e1618-.... **R27**

Miles, born perhaps about 1618, is of unknown parentage. He was probably only educated to literate grade. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 30 Sep 1648 when he was appointed by the *Committee for plundered ministers* as presbyterian minister of Onecote and granted an augmentation of £20 pa to his annual salary. He served as presbyterian minister of Bradbourne, Derbys from 1650 to 1656. In 1656 he was approved by the *Commissioners for the approbation of public preachers* as presbyterian minister of Lichfield St Chad parochial curacy.

Here his (?augmented) salary was £80 pa. In early Jun 1660 he continued here as *de jure* parochial curate. He did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived on 24 Aug 1662. Miles continued to live in Lichfield. Under *The five mile act* (31 Oct 1665), which prohibited nonconformist clergy from entering within 5 miles of parliamentary corporations such as Lichfield, he was forced to move. *Pearse* writes in 1683:

> He left his Living in the City of L. where he had been a Minister some Years, having a Wife and several Children, lost £80 *per an.* and £40 which should have been paid to him in the beginning of the Year, and in a low Estate left his Living: Yet he continued in Town, living upon meer Providence, till the *Oxford Act* [*The five mile act* (31 Oct 1665)] came out. Then he was forced to leave Wife and Children, being scarce free from an almost deadly Cold, which he thought would put an end to his Life, continuing about three Months upon him. He saw not Wife nor Children after that in eleven Weeks, and durst not come to them publickly in eighteen Months, or thereabouts, and having no Dwelling-place abroad, journeyed in that time (as he thinks) thirteen score Miles on foot, from place to place. If at any time he should steal home by Night, he was in great fear and danger, and durst not stir out of his Chamber; and whenever he went out again, he went either very late, or very early, and sometimes on a sudden, for fear of being taken. After that time he made bold to come home; but the Zeal of some growing so hot, that one Mr. Grace, an aged worthy Minister, coming to Town, they made search for him, which he escaped, leaving his Horse in his Inn, and escaping on foot: Then Mr. M. thought it unsafe for him to stay, and made haste away the next day, and durst not return in a long time. One time he was sent for to a Magistrate that lay sick, and continued his Night-Visits for a Fortnight; but the Evening before he died, he was sent for in haste by Day-light; and because he was seen to go to the Magistrate's House, he was complained of to the chief Magistrate of the Town, by a Curate, which made him hasten away next morning, (Saturday): The chief Magistrate was so kind as to send notice to his Wife, on the Evening of the Sabbath, that her Husband should be gone, for some had been twice with him for a Warrant. After this he absented long. He was cited into the Ecclesiastical Court, for baptizing his own Child. One time as he was going along the Street, one cried out to the Town-Clerk, who went after him, *Do you see the Rogue Mr. R. do you see the Rogue ? He is before you*: But God was pleased to give the Town-Clerk another Heart than to apprehend him. But this made him be much from home, and walk the Streets very sparingly. He hath been forced into the Country in Snow and Rain, to preach before day, and to shift from House to House before day, for fear of a Magistrate in the Country, who hath said, he would have him dead or alive. And so not daring to be in the City, nor to appear in the Country, in that Magistrate's reach, he hath been constrained to retire into the Fields and Solitudes, to keep Sabbath all alone.

In 1668 he was assessed on 2 hearths in the parish of Lichfield St Mary. In 1669 he was preaching at Walsall and in 1672, as of Lichfield, was licensed as a general presbyterian teacher. A manuscript survey of dissenting ministers taken about 1691 has under Staffordshire the entry "Ministers that have a Competent Supply - Mr Tho: Miles - [ejected Minister] Of Litchfield - able to goe abroad every Lords day 4. 5. or 6 miles for 9/0 or 7/0 pr day and horse hire paid out of it". No further record has been discovered. Miles married about 1655 to Ann (d 1680) by whom he had ?2 sons and 2 daughters.

Richard Morton M.D. (presbyterian minister of Kinver) 1637-1698 R28

Morton, christened on 30 Jul 1637 at Ribbesford, was a son of Robert Morton (parochial curate of Bewdley in Ribbesford, Worcs) and (his ?3rd wife) Mercy. He studied at Oxford where in 1652 he was a batteler at Magdalen Hall and matriculated on 17 Mar 1653.4 but shortly after migrated to New College. At Oxford he graduated B.A. on 30 Jan 1656.7 (M.A., 5 Jul 1659). In 1658 he was a fellow of New College and also served as chaplain. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 9 Feb 1658.9 when he was admitted as presbyterian minister of Kinver parochial curacy. About Jul 1659 he "became Chaplain in the family of Foley of Worcestershire". [Thomas Foley of "Witley Court", Worcs Esquire 1617-1677 was a friend of Richard Baxter 1615-1691 [ODNB].] In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate. In Jan 1661.2 he paid a clerical subsidy of 10/0. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. In the years 1662-1670 Morton presumably studied medicine for on 20 Dec 1670 on the nomination of Prince William of Orange he was created M.D., Oxon. Morton had probably moved to London by 16 Dec 1668 when his first child was christened at London Clerkenwell. He subsequently moved to Greyfriars Court in Newgate Street where he spent the rest of his life with his wife Sarah. Her unmarried brother Edward Tyson M.D. of London 1651-1708 [ODNB] lived with them. On 20 Mar 1675.6 Morton was admitted C.R.C.P. (candidate of the Royal College of Physicians) and on 23 Dec 1679 was elected F.R.C.P. (fellow). His Oxford degree of M.D. was incorporated at Cambridge in 1680. In 1690, 1691 and 1697 he was a college censor and sometime physician-in-ordinary to King William III to whom he had dedicated his book *Phthisiologia ...* in 1689. This work "established his reputation at home and abroad for over a century". Morton, died aged 61, on 30 Aug 1698 and was buried on 7 Sep in the middle aisle of the nave at London Christchurch Newgate Street. "The flag stone over him bears his arms and the following inscription: HSJ | Richardus Mortonus MD | Coll Med Lond Socius | Obiit xxx August salutis MDCXCVIII Anno aetatis LX" His will made on 30 Aug 1698 was proved under PCC on 3 Jan 1698.9. Morton mentions a sum of £4,000 to be settled on his son Richard and property in Surrey and London. He also writes "Item I give and bequeath unto my said son Richard Morton all my Books and manuscripts" Morton married about 1668 to Sarah Tyson dau of Edward Tyson of Bristol, Glos mercer c1613-1667 and Margaret Foley dau of Richard Foley of Stourbridge, Worcs ironmaster 1580-1657 by whom he had 1 son and 3 daughters. In his will Morton appointed Philip Foley of Prestwood in Kingswinford esquire 1648-1716 (his wife's cousin) as a trustee. *Calamy*

records in 1702: "Mr. Richard Moreton. A Man of great Gravity, Calmness, sound Principles, of no Faction, an excellent Preacher, of an upright Life." Morton was the author of *Phthisiologia seu exercitationes de phthisi tribus libris comprehensae. Totumque opus variis historiis illustratum (*1689); *Pyretologia: Seu exercitationes de morbis universalibus acutis* (1692) and *Pyretologia, pars altera: Sive exercitatio de febribus inflammatoriis universalibus* (?1694). Morton's father Robert Morton c1590-1658 married in 1624 to Hopestill Wheatley 1604-1629 dau of William Wheatley (vicar of Banbury, Oxon) 1583-1639 who in his will bequeathed a "dozen of bookes ... to ... my said sonne in lawe Mr Robert Morton". Robert lived at Stafford from 1628 to 1634 where Hopestill was buried in 1629 and where in 1634 his twin girls by his next wife Mercy were christened. Perhaps in this period Robert was ordained for about 1635 he was appointed parochial curate of Bewdley in Ribbesford, Worcs and from 5 Feb 1643.4 may have continued as *compliant* minister. On 7 Jul 1646 he was insituted *compliant* minister of Church Lawford, Warwicks. Richard Morton's sister Deborah was the wife of Richard Stretton M.A. presbyterian minister c1635-1712. Richard Morton's son Richard Morton F.R.C.S. 1668-1730 [ODNB] was the executor of the will of his uncle Edward Tyson (above). In his will Tyson made bequests to ?his sister Sarah and to Richard junior and two of Richard's sisters.

John Mott (presbyterian minister of Kings Bromley) e1623-1671 **R29**

Mott, born (perhaps) about 1623 at Kings Bromley, is of unknown parentage. He was probably only educated to literate grade - although he might be the man of this name who matriculated sizar from St Catharine's College, Cambridge at Easter 1649. On 24 May 1654 he was ordained as a presbyterian clergyman by the 4th London Classis probably just prior to his appointment as presbyterian minister of Kings Bromley parochial curacy. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate. He paid a clerical subsidy of 5/0 in Jan 1661.2. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. He remained at Kings Bromley where he took a lease of £60 pa on a farm. On 24 Apr 1664 it was reported "Swinfin and Mott, two ejected ministers, ride about frequently, day and night". In his will made on 6 Apr 1665 Samuel Hall (presbyterian minister of Barlaston) c1635-1665 requested that he "be carried to my place of buriall by [four] worthy friends" which included "Mr Swynfen and Mr Mott". [Richard Swinfen 1630-1691 **QV** had been presbyterian Minister of Mavesyn Ridware.] In 1665 "Mr.Mott" was assessed on 4 hearths at Kings Bromley. Later that year Mott's lease was terminated and he and his family went to live at Stafford with his wife's mother. Under *The five mile act* (31 Oct 1665), which prohibited nonconformist clergy from entering within 5 miles of parliamentary corporations such as Stafford, he was forced to move. In 1669 he was a preacher at the house of William Smallwood at Ranton and also at Newborough. Mott died, aged about 48, and was buried on 1 Dec 1671 at Stafford St Mary. Mott married about 1653 Eleanor by whom he had (perhaps) 3 sons and 4 daughters. About 18 Nov 1672 "The house of the Widd: Mott of Kings bromley" was licensed as a meeting-place. Pearse writes in 1683:

> After St. Bartholomew, he took a farm of sixty pounds per an. in the said parish, on which he lived handsomly four years, and was a good tenant. But behold what a crime it is to be a Nonconformist! He was threatned, and sued by a gentleman in the parish, and one of his landlords turned against him, saying, It was not fit a rebel against the king should live so near the church: And another of them, or the same, after he had made him a promise to sell him a lease for sixteen years, as soon as he returned from London; at London let the estate to another, at the very same rent, only he had a watch in earnest of the bargain; which bargain stood, and the new tenant turned out Mr. Mott, and his family, to his great loss, and at once was forced to leave the place where his relations lived, himself was born, and had been a painful minister. After this, he was accommodated with a part of his wive's mother's house in Stafford, where he lived in a very afflicted, troublesom condition, frowned upon by the magistrates (regulated Magistrates could do no less) threatning him with a prison, (for the bold offence of living in a corporation, when he could live no-where else.) When his wife was big with child, (of her sixth), he was committed to the marshal's hand, because he would not give in bond, wherein he was required to renounce the Covenant, (no doubt that Bond was drawn by the Advice of Counsel learned in the Law, or rather did not the Arbitrary Spirit act in those Counsels ?) and further threatened to be sent to Tutbury Castle, to be safe there. But he was at about a fortnight's end discharged, when Reason and good Nature advised together, only paying his fees, and the charges of the house. After this, the Corporation Act [intending The five mile act (31 Oct 1665)], came out; and what malice without law could not do before, this law gratified the malice of them, that thought a corporation could not be safe, whilst one Nonconformist was in it. He was then forced from his wife and children, came to them sometimes privately; and if for many years he appeared openly, information was presently given to the magistrates, and he brought before the mayor, and commanded to be gone, or stay in prison. Once he was brought before the deputy lieutenant; some told him (strange news) that he was in a plot; but he was dismissed, upon his promise of appearance whenever required. So vigilant was the eyes of

some upon him, or severe was their inspection, that he hardly durst attend the funeral of his own child, or stay to comfort his wife under her motherly grief, occasioned by that loss. These troubles, and cessation from his former work and business, did affect him into a decay of health, and oppression of spirits, that it hastened his death as is verily believed." [Pearse (1683) p55-6]

Sampson Newton (?presbyterian minister of Weston-under-Lizard) 1603-.... R30

Newton, christened on 21 Mar 1602.3 at Weston-upon-Trent, was a son of Francis Newton of Weston-upon-Trent c1570-1612 and Catherine. He studied at Oxford where he matriculated a commoner from Merton College on 19 Oct 1621. At Oxford he graduated B.A. on 4 Nov 1622 (M.A., 6 Jul 1625). No record has been found of his anglican ordination. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 1 Oct 1646 when he was appointed by the *Committee for plundered ministers* as ?presbyterian minister of Chebsey vicarage and granted an augmentation of £40 to his annual salary of £50 or £60. However he did not obtain possession until after 16 Jan 1646.7 when the *Committee of parliament for Staffordshire* was "to assist Mr Newton to take possession ...". Apparently a *committed* presbyterian, he signed the *Staffordshire testimony* of Jul 1648 as "Minister of Chebsey". His augmentation was paid up to Oct 1650. About this time he was removed "for praying for the Kings Children in Exile". Next Newton was appointed ?presbyterian minister of Weston-under-Lizard rectory probably soon after Jun 1652 (when a predecessor left office). In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* rector. In Jan 1661.2 he paid a clerical subsidy of 10/0. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. *Calamy* records in 1713 that "he was Ejected by the Act of Uniformity, notwithstanding that he was Episcopal in his Judgment, and for a Liturgy, because he could not intirely conform." No further record has been discovered. Newton may not have married.

John Nott M.A. (presbyterian minister of Sheriff Hales) 1625-1702 R31

Nott, christened on 13 Mar 1624.5 at Shelsley Beauchamp, was only son of Charles Nott M.A. (rector of Shelsley Beauchamp, Worcs) c1594-1664 and Mary (Wympe). He studied at Cambridge where on 28 Nov 1642 he was admitted a student at Emmanuel College and matriculated that year. On 29 May 1645 he was admitted, as a pupil of Mr Akehurst, to Trinity College where he was a scholar in 1646. At Cambridge he graduated B.A. in 1646.7 (M.A., 1650). In 1647 he was elected a fellow of Trinity. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 1650 when he was a presbyterian assistant minister at Wolverhampton where (his future brother-in-law) Ambrose Sparry 1613-1679 was minister. After presentation under the *Great Seal* on 30 May 1650 he was appointed presbyterian minister of Sheriff Hales vicarage where he paid first fruits on 6 Jan 1652. On 28 Aug 1654 he was appointed an *assistant commissioner for the ejection of scandalous ministers* in Staffordshire. By early 1656 as "teacher of Sheriff Hales" he was a member of the *Worcestershire Association.* He certified the fitness of many candidates for the ministry. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* vicar. In 1661.2 he paid a clerical subsidy of £1. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. Whilst at Sheriff Hales he had occupied a house with 3 hearths which in 1665 was occupied by his successor William Pierce c1638-1673. After ejection he is said to have preached at a chapel "near Hadly" - no county is mentioned. He was reported on Sunday 25 Dec 1664 for preaching "at an upholsterer's in Bartholomew Close, London". On 6 Sep 1665 Robert Greville 4th Baron Brooke of Beauchamps Court c1638-1677 (then Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire) reported that he had "secured" four ejected ministers in Staffordshire - Nott **QV**, Richard Hincks e1622-1683 **QV**, Richard Hilton c1625-1706 **QV** and William Fincher c1628-1691 **QV**. Probably soon after Nott became domestic chaplain to Richard Hampden of Great Hampden, Bucks 1631-1695. Hampden was an M.P. with presbyterian views who was married to Letitia Bagot dau of William Paget 6th Baron Paget of Beaudesert K.B. 1609-1678. Whilst in Buckinghamshire Nott had a salary of about £15 pa for preaching to a small group in a chapel at Wooburn the property of Philip Wharton 4th Baron Wharton 1613-1696 (also a presbyterian). In the same county he also preached at Wendover. After the passing of *The toleration act* (24 May 1689) he moved to Thame, Oxon. Here in 1690 it was said he "has newley sett up a constant meeting ... the people as yet cannot promise £15 pa". The meeting place may have been in New Thame. Nott received an annual grant from the *Common fund* of £10 from 1690 which was reduced to £8 from 1695 until his death. Nott died, aged 77, on 20 (or 28) Dec 1702 and was buried at Thame where a monument was placed in the church (below). His funeral sermon was preached by John Troughton (presbyterian minister of Bicester, Oxon c1637-1681). His will dated 6 Apr 1695 was proved under *PCC* on 6 Apr 1695. He bequeathed his manuscripts to his son-in-law Richard Mayo. He married on 26 Sep 1650 at Wolverhampton to Elizabeth Sparry 1621-1703 daughter of John Sparry of Old Swinford, Worcs by whom he had 4 sons and 5 daughters. John Nott B.A. (stipendiary curate of Stanford-upon-Teme, Worcs) c1664-?1702 was his youngest son. His daughter Sarah married Richard Mayo B.A. (vicar of Great Kimble, Bucks) c1662-1717. Ambrose Sparry (minister of Wolverhampton) 1613-1679 was his brother-in-law. In 1645 his father Charles Nott, then *compliant* minister of Shelsley Beauchamp, is said to have been a leader of the one thousand *Clubmen* who gathered on Woodbury Hill, Worcs to protest at the violence of local royalist soldiers and presented a declaration to Henry Bromley (Sheriff of Worcs). The Nott family coat of arms is recorded as "Azure a bend between three leopards faces or ".

RELIQUIAE | JOHANNIS NOTT: AM. | Collegij SS. Trinitatis Cantab. quondam Socij, | Verbi Divini Ministri, | Qui | Annum agens LXXVIII. | a Laboribus Requievit | Decemb: 20°. | MDCCII. | NEC: NON | ELIZABETHAE NOTT | Quae ejus, | Annos supra L. | Uxor | Mensesq; supra VIII. | Vidua, | in Christo [? ob]dormivit | Sept. 6. | MDCCIII. | Spe Beatae Resurrectionis.

John Orford (presbyterian minister of Arley) ?1639-.... R32

Orford, (? christened on 20 Jan 1638.9 at Bromsgrove son of Nicholas Orford of Bromsgrove, Worcs and Margery), was born in Worcestershire. He studied at Cambridge where on 20 Jun 1656 he was admitted sizar at Trinity College but is not known to have graduated. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 28 Oct 1658 when he was nominated by the *Trustees for the maintenance of preaching ministers* as presbyterian minister of Arley parochial curacy. On 10 Nov 1658 he received certificates of fitness from Henry Osland (of Bewdley, Worcs), Richard Fincher (of Worcester), Thomas Badland (presbyterian minister of Willenhall) c1634-1698 **QV,** John Wheeler, Fr Bromwich (? Thomas Bromwich of Kempsey, Worcs), John Women and John Tayler. He was then appointed and received an augmentation of £40 or £55. On or shortly after 11 Mar 1659.60 he signed the parish register "John Orford, presbyterian Minister". In Jun 1660 he may have continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate. It would appear that Burford coercively resigned here before 5 Mar 1661.2 when a successor was in office. Orford may not have married. No further record has been discovered.

William Overton (*?compliant* minister of Audley, Staffs) c1615-1661 R33

Overton, born about 1615, was a son of John Overton of Checkley ?yeoman c1585-1662 and Catherine. He was probably only educated to literate grade. He *may* have been ordained as a deacon before 6 Jul 1639 when he was appointed as schoolmaster of Kingsley parish school but was probably not ordained as a priest. Between Jul 1648 and 1650 he was appointed *?compliant* minister of Audley vicarage. Here he received an augmentation of £20 to his annual salary. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* vicar. About Sep 1660 he was displaced in office by a former stipendiary curate John Kelsall 1604-1669. An undated entry in Audley parish register reads "Here William Kelsall & his Curate John Kelsall were sequestered and ejected for adheringe to the Kinge Charles 1. p.m. and Kinge Charles 2. returneing to his throne John Kelsall returned to his vicariage August. 9. 1660 ..." After his displacement Overton returned to his birthplace Checkley where he died, aged about 46, and was buried on 13 Aug 1661. His will made on 1 Aug 1661 was proved under Lichfield on 11 Apr 1662. His personalty was valued at £181/18/8 and included "2 Books of general sorts £3". Overton married on 2 Aug 1641 at Checkley to Dorothy Ford by whom he had (perhaps) 1 son and 3 daughters.

Thomas Poole B.A. (presbyterian minister of Talk-on-the-Hill) c1637-1707 R34

Poole, born about 1637 in Staffordshire, is of unknown parentage. He studied at Cambridge where on 13 May 1654 he was admitted sizar at Jesus College and matriculated that year. At Cambridge he graduated B.A. in 1657.8. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 1659 when he was in office as presbyterian minister of Talk-on-the-Hill parochial curacy. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. After deprivation Poole moved to Brerehurst in Wolstanton where he died, aged about 70, but was buried on 1 Dec 1707 at Church Lawton, Cheshire. His will made on 20 Nov 1707 was proved under Lichfield on 24 Sep 1708. His personalty was valued at £26/4/6 which included a sum of £5 for books. Poole married perhaps about 1660 to a woman by whom he had 1 daughter. *Calamy* records in 1713 that "His [Poole's] Father left him a little Land, in which he had dug twenty Years before, and could find nothing: But the Son after his Non-conformity found a Mine of Coals there, which (says my Author, Dr Sampson) in the Years 1674, and 75, clear'd him £800." Perhaps Sampson confused Poole with some other man for Poole does not appear to have ever been a wealthy man. In his will Poole states that money for his daughter should be given "in such manner that her husband Samll Burslem may have no benefitt or advantage whatsoever thereof".

John Reynolds M.D. (presbyterian minister of Wolverhampton) 1632-1683 R35

Reynolds, christened on 14 Feb 1631.2 at Kings Norton, was 1st son of Thomas Reynolds of "Barnbrook End", Kings Norton, Worcs yeoman c1593-1667 and Sybil. He was probably educated at Kings Norton Grammar School under Thomas Hall 1610-1665. He (probably) studied at Oxford, on 22 Feb 1650.1 matriculated as a commoner from Pembroke College and graduated B.A. on 14 Feb 1653.4. (His son John *was* a member of Pembroke College and so he is less likely to be the man of the same name that graduated on 29 Jan 1652.3 from Balliol.) He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by May 1654 when he was in office as presbyterian minister of Whitacre, Warwicks. By 1657 Reynolds was an assistant presbyterian minister at Wolverhampton ?vicarage. On 11 Feb 1657.8 after nomination (12 Nov 1657) by the *Trustees for the maintenance of preaching ministers* he was appointed presbyterian minister of Wolverhampton at a salary of £100 pa. He also acted as register. Whilst at Wolverhampton he is said to have been a member of the *Worcestershire Association*. In Jun 1660 he may have continued in office as *de facto* ?vicar. About Sep 1660 he voluntarily resigned. In 1662 Thomas Taylor (quaker minister) c1618-1682 [ODNB] published *Ignorance and Error reproved: being an*

answer to some Queries that one John Reynolds wrote to two of the People called Quakers. On 3 May 1663 Reynolds held a conventicle at Walsall with seven inhabitants for which he was later presented at the Stafford Quarter Sessions. He married at Wolverhampton in 1663 and in 1665 was assessed on 7 hearths at High Green Street. He is said to have been the first pastor of the "Old Meeting House in Wolverhampton". About this time he is said to have remarked to a Wolverhampton apothecary that "the Nonconformists were not so contemptible for Number and Quality as he made them, that most of the people were of their mind, that Cromwel tho an Usurper had kept up England against the Dutch, &c. And that he marvelled that he would be so hot against private Meetings, when at Aston the Dean suffered them at the next door." After the death of his father in 1667 Reynolds returned to his birthplace Kings Norton where he was living in 1669 when he published *A discourse upon prodigious abstinence ...* About this time he probably wrote a manuscript life of his schoolmaster Thomas Hall (minister of Kings Norton) 1610-1665 entitled "A briefe narrative of the Life and Death of Mr. Thomas Hall, late Pastor of King's Norton in Worcestershire ... published by John Reynolds, late minister of Wolverhampton and sometimes pupil to the aforesaid author". By 1674 he had moved to Stourbridge, Worcs where he is said to have "preach'd in his own House, and many other Places freely". On 24 Jun 1682 John Reynolds was appointed an overseer of the will of Thomas Willesby M.A. (presbyterian minister of Wombourn-cum-Trysull, Staffs) 1618-1682 **QV**. He was admitted as a medical student at Leyden on 4 Aug 1682 and from there graduated M.D. on 10 Aug 1682 with the thesis *"De spiritibus animalibus"* which was dedicated to Edward Ward 7th Baron Dudley 1631-1701 [CP] and is said to have been published. In Aug 1683 he moved to London. His son John Reynolds later wrote of his father:

> [He] left the Country, and purchas'd a House in the Parish of St. Giles, London, to which there also belong'd a private Meeting-House ... and went there to reside in the Year 83, expecting that he might there Preach with less Danger and Trouble, and procure the most Advantages to his Family, by the practice of Physick; but in about half a years Time it pleased God by a Pleuritick Fever to remove him from his Family. ... A Wife and five Children were deprived ... Upon his Death, Mrs. Reynolds the disconsolate Widow, remov'd into the Country again, where she thro Grief and Trouble brought herself into a Consumption, and quickly follow'd her beloved Huband.

Reynolds died at London of "a Pleuritic Fever" in Dec 1683, aged 51, and was buried at London St Giles in the Fields. His nuncupative will was made on 22 Dec 1683 and proved under PCC on 24 Jan 1683.4. His personalty apparently exceeded £2,000. Richard Serjeant (presbyterian minster of Stone, Worcs) c1622-a1696 was a trustee. Reynolds married on 8 Jul 1663 at Wolverhampton to Elizabeth Hanbury 1647-?1684 dau of Robert Hanbury of Wolverhampton gentleman c1600-1651 by whom he had 3 sons and 3 daughters. John Reynolds (presbyterian minister) 1668-1727 [ODNB] was his oldest son and left a manuscript of memoirs (quoted above). *Calamy* records in 1727:

> He was a Man of a great Genius; eminent for his Skill in Divinity, Physick, and Law, and other Parts of Knowledge. He was liberal and free in doing Good in every Capacity, to all Persons that came within his Reach. ... and that with his Gifts, and Parts, and Estate, (which was about £150 per An,) besides what came from noble and rich Patients, that made use of him as a Physician. ... In short he was a singular Man. When Endeavours were on Foot for a Comprehension and Indulgence, he was written to for his Judgment, not only by Mr. Baxter, but also by several Members of Parliament ...

Reynolds was the author of: "R.I." *An answer to Mr. Humprey's remarks ....[on reordination]* (1661) not identified and a pamphlet of 37 pages *A discourse upon prodigious abstinence: Occasioned by the twelve moneths fasting of Martha Taylor, the famed Derbyshire damosell: Proving that without any miracle, the texture of humane bodies may be so altered, that life may be long continued without the supplies of meat & drink: with an account of the heart, and how far it is interessed in the business of fermentation ...* (1669).

----- ?Ridwater (?presbyterian minister of Biddulph) e1621-.... R36

----- Ridwater, born perhaps about 1621, is of unknown parentage. He was probably only educated to literate grade. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman in or before 1660 when he was probably appointed ?presbyterian minister of Biddulph vicarage. In Jun 1660 he likely continued in office as *de facto* vicar. On 28 Feb 1660.1 he was in office as vicar of Biddulph. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. A successor William Armett c1609-1667 was instituted on 14 Jan 1662.3. His surname is uncertain - it might have been Rideway.

William Rock (?presbyterian minister of Mayfield) 1620-1694 R37

Rock, christened on 5 Nov 1620 Shrewsbury St Chad, was 2nd and posthumous son of Thomas Rock of Frankwell in Shrewsbury glover c1572-1620 and Gwen (?Blake). He was educated at Shrewsbury under Mr Chaloner. He studied at Cambridge where on 9 Apr 1640 he was admitted sizar at St John's College and matriculated that year but is not known to have graduated. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 1648 when, apparently a *committed* presbyterian, he signed the *Shropshire testimony* of 1648 as "William Rock Minister of Aston". By the winter of 1651.2 he was in office as ?presbyterian minister of Mayfield vicarage. Here in 1656 and 1659 he received an augmentation of £18 to his annual salary. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* vicar. In Jan 1661.2 he paid a clerical subsidy of 10/0. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not

subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. In 1665 "Mr Rocke" was assessed on 3 hearths at Church Mayfield in Mayfield. A manuscript survey of dissenting ministers taken about 1691 has under Staffordshire the entry "Ministers that have a Competent Supply - Mr Rock - [ejected Minister] Of Mayfield all these [? *meaning unclear*] yet has £30 pa [allowance]. Rock died, aged 74, at Uttoxeter where he was buried on 27 Dec 1694. His will made on 22 Dec 1694 was proved under Lichfield on 18 Apr 1695. His personalty was valued at £59/7/8 and included " Item Books in his Closett £6/5/6". Rock married on 24 Jul 1651 at Tamworth to Mary Boyes (d ?1697) by whom he had 1 son and 2 daughters. In his will made on 11 Jan 1655.6 Thomas Blake (*compliant* minister of Tamworth) c1596-1657 bequeathed "to my nephew Mr William Rocke now minister of Mathfield my Junius and Tremelius Bible togther with anie of the ... booke or curmans works that he shall chose out of my studie ...". Samuel Beresford (presbyterian assistant minister of Tamworth) 1629-1697 who was also mentioned in Blake's will and also appointed a trustee in Rock's will was apparently his maternal cousin. *Calamy* records in 1702 "Mr. Joseph[sic] Rock. A very Calm, Humble, Sober, Peaceable, Godly and Blameless Minister, and of very good Abilities."

Joseph Sonde B.A. (*compliant* minister of Swynnerton) ?1598-1672 R38

Sonde, (? christened on 10 Dec 1598 at Worfield), was probably a son of Richard Sonde of "The Sonde" in Worfield, Salop husbandman c1568-1636 and Frances. He studied at Cambridge where on 12 Feb 1618.9 he was admitted as a sizar at Peterhouse and matriculated that year. At Cambridge he graduated B.A. in 1622.3. He was presumably ordained deacon and priest before 10 May 1633 when after presentation by Herbert Jenks of Newhall, Salop esquire he was instituted as vicar of Eaton under Heywood, Salop. Here he had resigned before 27 Oct 1643 when a successor John Jenks was instituted. On 30 Sep 1644 he was appointed as an army chaplain by the Staffordshire Parliamentary Committee who ordered that "Mr. Sound shalbe Chaplayne to the Governors Regiment and performe duty dayly upon the guard and for his service therein he shall have £37 per annum the said summe beinge rent due for the Prebend of Gnosall which Walter Chetwynd Esq. payeth ...". By 1647 he was *compliant* minister of Shifnal vicarage, Salop when as "Mr Joseph Sound of Shuffnall" he was one of the "Ministers fit to bee of the Third Classis [of Shropshire]". Whilst here he was "plundered by Royalists". Thomas Pickin c1613-?1653 had been minister at Swynnerton since 3 Sep 1645 but on 24 Jul 1647 the *Committee for Plundered Ministers* investigated - and apparently dismissed - a claim by Sonde that he had been appointed here as *compliant* minister or "settled into this rectory". He was probably not in office but living in Staffordshire when, apparently a *committed* presbyterian, he signed the *Staffordshire testimony* of Jul 1648. About Mar 1648.9 he was appointed *compliant* minister of Newcastle parochial chapelry by Newcastle borough council. On 28 Aug 1649 their record reads " It is agreed that the rent of £20 yearely payable to the Towne for tole corne by Stephen Hales and also the Towne rent shall from Michaelmas next be disposed of towards payment of the yearely some agreed uppon to be payd to Mr Soond, the minister, the rest to be paid by such of the tith hay and small tythes and what is wanting in that to be collected by way of benevolence amongst the Inhabitants of this Burroughe: untill an augmentation be procured. " Later the *Trustees for the maintenance of preaching ministers* granted him augmentations of £50 and £14 to his annual salary of £14. These augmentations were confirmed by the *Committee for the reformation of the universities* and paid to him from 6 Jan 1649.50 till 1654. Later in 1657 and 1658 Sonde was a defendant in chancery proceedings taken by the Newcastle authorities regarding money matters. On 24 Apr 1654 after presentation by Oliver Cromwell [? *qua* the Protector] he was admitted *compliant* minister of Swynnerton rectory (in succession to Picken, above). Whilst here he frequently certified the fitness of candidates for the ministry. On 28 Aug 1654 he was "as of Newcastle"appointed an *assistant commissioner for the ejection of scandalous ministers* in Staffordshire. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* rector of Swynnerton. At the Stafford Assizes of 17 Aug 1660 (? 1661) he was indicted for refusing to read the "book containing the proclamation". It is unclear which book this was but he appears to have denied the charge and was bound in £20 on 21 Jul 1662. At Swynnerton he did not pay the £1/5/0 subsidy in Jan 1661.2 and on 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. In 1665 he was living at Newcastle where he was assessed on 6 hearths. Sonde died, aged about 74, probably at Newcastle, but was buried on 6 Feb 1671.2 at Church Lawton, Cheshire. He married (perhaps) about 1650 to Susanna (d 1677) (no known children). In 1673 Susanna's house at Newcastle was licensed as a presbyterian meeting-place. In her will written on 25 Jul 1677 she bequeathed "Mr Thomas Leadbeater Mr Raphe Hall and Mr Samuel Campion ministers twenty shillings apiece". They were Thomas Leadbeater (presbyterian minister of Hinckley, Leics) 1628-1679; Ralph Hall (presbyterian minister of Newcastle) c1605-.... **QV** and Samuel Campion (minister of Hodnet, Salop c1612-1678. In 1702 *Calamy* records of Sonde that he was "An Ancient Divine, of great Learning, Moderation, Judgment, and Calmness of Spirit, and of a Godly upright Life." Sonde was involved in disputes at Swynnerton in 1647, at Newcastle in 1657/8 and at Stafford in 1660/1 and may have had a contentious nature. Richard Sonde c1568-1636 (probably Joseph's father) mentions several of his children in his will but not Joseph perhaps on account of a family disagreement. Joseph *was* the brother of George Sond of "The Sonde" in Worfield, Salop husbandman ?1605-1684 and if not Joseph's son was likely a close kinsman.

William Southall (presbyterian minister of Baswich) e1628-.... R39

Southall, born perhaps about 1628, is of unknown parentage. He was probably only educated to literate grade.

He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 10 May 1658 when he was nominated by Oliver Cromwell *qua* the *Protector* as presbyterian minister of Bednall parochial curacy. On 4 Mar 1658.9 he was admitted by the *Commission for approbation of public preachers* as presbyterian minister of Baswich parochial curacy and was in office in Nov 1659. It is likely that in Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate but on 24 Aug 1662 did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. Southall may not have married. No further record has been discovered.

Richard Swinfen B.A. (presbyterian minister of Mavesyn Ridware) 1630-1691 R40

Swinfen, christened on 21 Oct 1630 at Lichfield St Mary, was 6th and youngest son of Richard Swinfen of Swinfen in Weeford gentleman 1596-1659 and Joan Curitall alias Harman dau of George Curitall alias Harman of Weeford gentleman. He was educated at Tamworth, Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks and London Charterhouse. He studied at Cambridge where on 23 Jun 1650 he was admitted pensioner at Pembroke College. The master of the college William Moses 1622-1688 was his tutor. He shared a chamber with Thomas Doolittle nonconformist minister c1632-1707. At Cambridge he graduated B.A. in 1653.4 (M.A., ????). He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 4 Jan 1655.6 when he was appointed presbyterian minister of Sandiacre, Derbys. On 19 Feb 1655.6 he applied to be ordained by the Wirksworth Classis, Derbyshire and was asked to compose a thesis entitled "Utrum Paulina contradicat Jacobo in articulo justificationis?". On 4 Mar he was successfully examined and produced a certificate from the parishioners of Sandiacre, Derbys requesting that he be appointed their minister. Then on 18 Mar he was ordained as a presbyterian minister by the classis at Wirksworth parish church. On 13 Nov 1657 after presentation by John Agard of Foston in Scropton, Derbys gentleman c1583-c1657 he was admitted as presbyterian minister of Mavesyn Ridware rectory in succession to John Price c1619-.... *Calamy* records in 1727 that he "was preferr'd to Mavison Ridwar of about £100 per Annum Value: Which Living it is said he at first refus'd to accept till he was inform'd that the legal Incumbent was sequestred not so much for his Affection to the Church and King as for very great Immoralities. On arrival at Mavesyn Ridware Swinfen paid above £200 for the repair of the parsonage and its barn. Here in a lawsuit of about 1659 William Shaw c1617-1672, said to have been unsuccesfully presented by John Agard in 1648, claimed to be the rightful minister. Although his claim was not upheld at law he seems to have caused Swinfen to coercively resign about Jun 1660 and was instituted rector of Mavesyn Ridware on 7 Sep 1660. On leaving Mavesyn Ridware Swinfen rented a farm at Pipe Ridware. On 24 Apr 1664 it was reported "Swinfin and Mott, two ejected ministers, ride about frequently, day and night". In his will made on 6 Apr 1665 Samuel Hall (presbyterian minister of Barlaston) c1635-1665 requested that he "be carried to my place of buriall by [four] worthy friends" which included "Mr Swynfen". Under *The five mile act* (31 Oct 1665), which prohibited nonconformist clergy from entering within 5 miles of parliamentary corporations such as Lichfield (to which Pipe Ridware was close), Swinfen was forced to move again. He now went to Barton-under-Needwood where he lived for about 20 years. Whilst there he preached "in the neighbouring Counties of Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire" [but] "constantly went himself and took all his Family with him to the Parish Church where he liv'd". In 1669 a conventicle was held at his house in Barton-under-Needwood which is said to have been attended by 30 or 40 people. In 1672 he was licensed as a presbyterian teacher in his own house at Barton-under-Needwood and (on 22 Jul) at the house of William Palmer of Fisherwick in Lichfield St Michael. About Jun 1685 Swinfen was one a number of Staffordshire gentlemen imprisoned at Chester Castle on suspicion of supporting James Scott 1st Duke of Monmouth 1649-1685 in the "Monmouth rebellion" against James II. On his release he and his wife lived with a married daughter. They then moved to Burton-upon-Trent to live with their youngest son who had recently set up business as a mercer. A manuscript survey of dissenting ministers taken about 1691 has under Staffordshire the entry "Ministers that have a Competent Supply - Mr Richd Swinfyn - [ejected Minister] Of Maves on[sic] Ridwar - able to goe abroad every Lords day 4. 5. or 6 miles for 9/0 or 7/0 pr day and horse hire paid out of it". Swinfen died "seiz'd with a Dropsy", aged 61, in 1691 at Burton-upon-Trent. He married on 6 Aug 1657 at Hints to Elizabeth Clarke dau of John Clarke of Moor Hall, Warwicks gentleman by whom he had (perhaps) 3 sons and 3 daughters. Shortly after leaving Mavesyn Ridware Swinfen visited London where Edward Hyde 1st Earl of Clarendon 1609-1674 (then Chancellor of the Exchequer) offered to present him to a valuable living if he conformed. Swinfen discussed the offer with his former tutor William Moses who persuaded him not to conform. On their parting company Moses said "As Caesar said to the mariners, so say I to thee, dear Swynfen, *Ne timeas; Christum portas & Fortunas Christi*". Swinfen is said to have had three principal reasons for his nonconformity: "1. That he had taken the Solemn League and Covenant and he could not safely swear that there lay no Obligation upon him from it. 2. That he had been classically ordain'd and therefore could not submit to any Re-ordination whatever because he thought in the Nature of the Thing it implied an Acknowledgment of the Invalidity of his former Orders. 3. And lastly he could not give his

unfeigned Assent and Consent to all and every Thing contained and prescrib'd in and by the Book of Common Prayer."

Edward Toogood (?presbyterian minister of Bloxwich) e1630-.... R41
Toogood, born perhaps about 1630, is of unknown parentage. He was probably only educated to literate grade. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman when about 1659 he was probably appointed as ?presbyterian minister of Bloxwich parochial curacy. In Jun 1660 he may have continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate and was in office in Jan 1661.2 when he paid a clerical subsidy of 5/0. At this period the curate of Bloxwich was often also master of Bloxwich Endowed School. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. Toogood may not have married. No further record has been discovered.

William Turton B.A. (presbyterian minister of Rowley Regis) 1636-1716 R42
Turton, christened on 1 Jan 1635.6 at Oxford St Martin, was 1st son of William Turton of Oxford ironmonger c1598-1643 and (his 1st wife) Judith. He studied at Oxford where on 26 May 1653 he was a servitor at Brasenose College and matriculated. At Oxford he graduated B.A. on 15 Jan 1656.7 (M.A., ????). He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 26 Feb 1657.8 when he was admitted as presbyterian minister of Rowley Regis parochial chapelry. About 1658/9 he was in receipt of an augmentation of £10 to his annual salary. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate. He was presented on 17 Jul 1662 for baptising children at Halesowen and churching women there in private houses without leave of the rector. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. In 1669 he was one of six teachers of conventicles at the houses of William Bayley, William Keeling and William Penson in Darlaston which attracted 100-200 worshippers, and, one of three teachers of conventicles at the houses of Henry Hopkins and John Tunck in Wednesbury which attracted 200-300 worshippers. Whilst living at Rowley Regis on 13 May 1672 he was licensed to be a presbyterian teacher at the house of Joseph Wade in Stafford and about the same time at the house of William Keeling in Darlaston. In 1688 he was preaching at Nantwich, Cheshire. By 1689 he had moved to Birmingham where his house was certified as a meeting place. On 6 Jul 1689 a chapel at Birmingham (later known as Birmingham Old Meeting House) was licensed in the names of William Turton, Thomas Baldwin (presbyterian minister of Clent) c1627-.... **QV** and William Fincher (presbyterian minister of Wednesbury) c1630-1691 **QV**. Turton was appointed the first pastor and held office until his death. A manuscript survey of dissenting ministers taken about 1691 has under Staffordshire the entry "Ministers that have a Competent Supply - Mr Wm Grace - [ejected Minister] Of Shenston - but the entry is scored out. Another entry has "Mr Turton ... Att Birmingham of another Congregation well provided for". Between 1706 and 1711 he also preached at Oldbury, Worcs for which he received £4 pa from the *Common Fund*. Turton may have retired from active duties about 1712. Later on 17 Jul 1715 Birmingham Old Meeting House was wrecked by a Jacobite mob. Turton died, aged 80, and was buried on 27 April 1716 at Birmingham St Martin. His will made on 12 May 1714 was proved under *PCC* on 10 Jul 1716. Turton married on 12 Jul 1659 at West Bromwich to Margery Grove (b ?1734) dau of (? Thomas Grove of Rowley Regis gentleman 1607-....) and Margery by whom he had 5 sons and 2 daughters. Samuel Turton (presbyterian minister of Kenilworth Rosemary Hill, Warwicks) c1677-1727 was his youngest son. Turton's father William was 1st son of John Turton of Rowley Regis yeoman c1570-a1635 who bequeathed his oldest son William property in Oldbury and "five pounds to bee imploied or bestowed to the use or maintenance of a teacher to teach Gods word in the Chappel of Oldburie" (where William jnr later preached). John had a second son John Turton of "The Brades", Rowley Regis yeoman 1610-1690 whose house was licensed for presbyterian worship on 5 Sep 1672. In his will John jnr is said to have mentioned "my kinsman" William Turton clerk.

Humphrey Waldron B.A. (presbyterian minister of Broom) 1633-1668 R43
Waldron, christened on 20 Jan 1632.3 at Belbroughton, was a son of Roger Waldron of "Giles House", Belbroughton, Worcs yeoman c1587-1661 and Elizabeth (Blicke). He studied at Oxford where on 24 Jun 1653 as a commoner he matriculated from Balliol College. At Oxford he graduated B.A. on 6 Jul 1654. About that time he was briefly an assistant to *Richard Baxter* at Kidderminster. On 20 Feb 1654.5 he applied to be ordained by the Wirksworth Classis, Derbys, was successfully examined, produced a certificate from the parishioners of Broom requesting that he be appointed their minister and exhibited his thesis. Then on 21 Mar 1654.5 he was ordained as a presbyterian minister by the classis. On 15 May 1654 he was appointed presbyterian minister of Broom rectory. By early 1656 as "minister of Broome" he was a member of the *Worcestershire Association.* In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* rector. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. In 1665 he was assessed on 4 hearths at at Broom township in Clent & Broom constablewick. Shortly after he moved to Bromsgrove, Worcs where he died, aged 35, and was buried on 11 Nov 1668. His will written on 4 Nov 1668 was proved under *PCC* on 23 Dec 1668. Waldron married first on 23 Nov 1654 at Kidderminster, Worcs to Mary Nash by whom he had 2 daughters. He married second about 1665

to Catherine (d 1669) by whom he had 1 son. Waldron's brother Roger Waldron of "Giles House", Belbroughton, Worcs scythesmith c1635-1671 was married to Mary Tristram dau of Richard Tristram (rector of Belbroughton, Worcs) 1613-1691. In a letter of 10 Feb 1673.4 *Baxter* includes Waldron (noted as then dead) in a list of ministers who had never "done or said [anything] against the King". In 1696 he writes "At Broom was silenced Mr. Humphrey Waldern, my [former] Assistant ... of good Learning and Utterance."

Robert Wild D.D. (rector of Tatenhill) c1616-1679 [ODNB] **R44**

Wild, born about 1616, was a son of Robert Wild of St Ives, Hunts shoemaker e1586-..... He was privately educated at St Ives. He studied at Cambridge where on 26 Jan 1631.2 he was admitted as a sizar at St John's College and on 6 Nov 1634 was a scholar. At Cambridge he graduated B.A. in 1635.6 (M.A., 1639) (D.D., *lit. reg.*, 1661). On 18 Feb 1637.8 he was ordained deacon and on 22 Dec 1639 ordained priest (both) by Peterborough. At Oxford he was created B.D. on 1 or 2 Nov 1642. In Aug 1643 his oldest son was christened at Andover, Hants where he may have been "an usher in a free school". On 22 Jul 1646 by order of the House of Commons he was appointed *compliant* minister of Aynho, Northants in the place of the previous incumbent James Longman who was sequestered on 10 Dec 1646. Wild compounded here on 11 Dec 1647. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* rector. About Sep 1660 he was displaced in office on the reinstatement of Long. Shortly after he is said to have been presented by the Crown to another living and on having to give place to another claimant to have written the distich "If hand and seal won't do the thing, Charles is return'd, but not the King". On 1 Sep 1660 after presentation by the Crown he was inducted as rector of Tatenhill, on 21 May 1661 compounded and in Jan 1661.2 paid a clerical subsidy of 5/0. Wild's predecessor here was Henry Burford c1590-.... **QV** (who had perhaps resigned). It is said that Wild "allowed him £20 pa to keep him alive as he was reduced to poverty and much impotency". On 24 Aug 1662 Wild did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. He was living at Watford, Herts on 18 Jul 1665. Shortly afterwards he moved to Nuneaton where he became a friend of Richard Clayton ?1595-1669 **QV**. It is said "there was such an Intimacy and Friendship between these two that they were to each other as *David* and J*onathan."* In 1669 a conventicle was held at his house in Nuneaton of which he and two other men (Andrews & Campion) were teachers. It is said to have been attended by "about 30 [people], but of late growne to 120 or more". In Jul 1669 he was indicted at Warwick Assizes for keeping a conventicle. On 10 Aug 1672 he was licensed to be a presbyterian teacher at his own house at Oundle, Northants. Wild died probably from apoplexy, aged about 63, in Jul 1679 at Oundle where he was buried on 30 Jul. His will made on 10 Aug 1678 was proved under *PCC* on 17 Feb 1679.80. In his will he bequeathed £500 to each of his two older sons and mentions that his youngest son had already received the same amount. With regard to his books he writes "unto my two [older] sonns ... my Library of Bookes to be equally devided betwixt them by lotts ... to my wife their mother my best Bible and what other English Bookes she shall chuse not exceeding six in number". Wild married about 1642 Joyce (d 1688) by whom he had 3 sons: Robert Wild M.A. (rector of Toppesfield, Essex) 1643-1691, John Wild M.A. (vicar of Weekley, Northants) c1647-1682 and James Wild of London linen-draper 1649-.... Wild was a religious and political thinker, writer and poet whose views must have evolved with time. After anglican ordination and serving as a *compliant* minister he was able to accept an anglican office from the Crown in 1660 but then on 24 Aug 1662 did not subscribe was to be deprived and subsequently became a presbyterian teacher. Wild was also capable of humorous observations. Thus Anthony a Wood, writing about 1691, calls him "a fat, jolly and boon Presbyterian" whilst *Calamy* records in 1702: "I have heard him commended by those that knew him, not only for his Facetiousness, but also his strict Temperance and Sobriety, and his being very Serious in Serious Things". He then quotes one Stancliff who wrote "He was excellently qualified unto his Ministerial Work. None more melted and melting in Prayer, nor more serious and fervent in Preaching Christ and his Gospel". In his will is mention of a bequest of "fifty pounds to my native Towne of St Ives ... for and to such uses .. in a writing". This writing or deed is said to have requested "a sermon to be preached annually on Whit Tuesday; as well as for six bibles, for which twelve natives were to cast lots upon the communion table *with three dice in a sawcer* on the said day. Wild was the author of many books, poems etc which (are thought to) include the following: *Benefice. A comedy. By R.W. D.D. Author of Iter Boreale. Written in his younger days: Now made publick for promoting innocent mirth.* [? written 1641] (1689); [Anonymous] "The combat of the cocks" in Thomas Randall *The high and mighty commendation* (1642)**;** *An Elegie upon the Earle of Essex's Funerall* (1646); *Poem Gondibert Vindicated from the Wit Combats of four Esquires Clinias Dametas Sancho and Jack Pudding Printed in the year 1655* (1655); *The Arraignment of a Sinner at the Bar of Divine Justice: Delivered in a Sermon in St. Maries Church at Oxford, March the 5. 1655 Before the Right Honourable, the Judges of Assize, &c* (?1656); *In Nova Fert Animos &c a New Song Upon the Hopeful New Parliament Elegy Upon the Much to be Lamented Death of the Reverend Mr Vines* (1656); *Iter boreale. Attempting somthing upon the successful and matchless march of the Lord General George Monck, from Scotland to London, the last winter, &c. ... By a rural pen.* London, printed on St. George's Day, being the 23d of April, 1660; *The Tragedy of Christopher Love at Tower Hill, August 22, 1651* (1660); *Rome Rhym'd to Death a Collection of Choice Poems by Dr Wild and others of the best Modern Wit* (?1661)**;** *A Poem upon the Imprisonment of Mr Calamy in*

Newgate (1663); *The Recantation of a Penitent Proteous as it was acted at St Paul's in London* (1663) ; *An Essay upon the late Victory obtained by the Duke of York against the Dutch June 3 1665* (?1665); *The Grateful Non-Conformist* (1665) ; *A Letter to Mr. J.J. upon His Majesty's Declaration for Liberty of Conscience* (1672); *Dr Wild's Humble Thanks for His Majesties Declaration for Liberty of Conscience* March 15 1672 ; *Dr Hewitt's Letter to Dr Wilde on June 7 1658 being the day before he suffered Death and read by Dr Wilde at his Funerall Moonshine or the Restauration of Jews Trumps and Bagpipes* (1672); *A Panegyrick humbly address'd to the King's most excellent Maj on his auspicious Meeting his 2 Houses of Parl 4 and 5 of Feb 1672.3? and his most gracious Speech there delivered on that Occasion Lond* (1673); *The Poring Doctor* (1674); *An Exclamation against Popery occasioned by His Majesties Last Gracious Speech* (1678); *Oliver Cromwell's Ghost or old Noll newly revived* [1678?]. ; *Dr. Wild's Poem: In nova fert animus* [1679],; *Dr. R. W.'s Last Legacie* [1679]; *A Copy of the Last Verses Made by Dr. Wild* (1679). [NOTE: Wild evidently died a wealthy man bequeathing £1,000 to his two older sons. During his lifetime he may have had a good income from his clerical offices and from his published books. He might have inherited wealth from his family but his father was only a provincial shoemaker. It seems more likely that his wife Joyce was an heiress. In 1665 Wild received £755 from Richard Noyes and Joseph Hinxman probably after the sale of land at Andover and his wife Joyce may have been a relative of one or other of these men.]

Thomas Willesby M.A. (presbyterian minister of Wombourn-cum-Trysull, Staffs) 1618-1682 **R45**

Willesby, christened on 12 Aug 1618 at Spalding, was 7th son of William Willesby of Spalding, Lincs gentleman 1576-1631 and (his 2nd wife) Mary Edwards dau of Thomas Edwards of Wisbech, Cambs. He studied at Cambridge where on 6 Sep 1634 he was admitted pensioner at Emmanuel College and matriculated that year. At Cambridge he graduated B.A. in 1638.9 (M.A., 1642). He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman by 4 Aug 1646 when he was appointed presbyterian minister of Bigby-cum-Somerby rectory, Lincs. He was ordained as a presbyterian clergyman by the 4th London Classis on 20 Apr 1647. On 18 May 1652 he was appointed presbyterian minister of Wombourn-cum-Trysull vicarage. Whilst in office here "he set up a Lecture every other Tuesday for his neighbouring Ministers to preach in his Church, that the People might have the Benefit of their Assistance", is said to have been a member of the *Worcestershire Association* and "long kept one of the most learned of the Prelatists in his House". In 1655 he certified the fitness of candidates for the ministry. About 1658.9 he received an augmentation of £60 to his annual salary. In Jun 1660 he continued in office as *de facto* vicar. In Jan 1661.2 he paid a clerical subsidy of £2. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. He had moved to Birmingham by 1669 when he was a nonconformist teacher at his own house. Whilst here he was "troubled " by Sir Robert Holte of Aston by Birmingham, Warwicks 2nd Baronet c1625-1679. Later he moved to Old Swinford, Worcs. *Calamy* records in 1727 that "Then he remov'd to Old Swynford, and preach'd in his own House, near the Church, between the Times of publick Service; and from thence led his Hearers to the Church, in which he sometimes join'd in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, as well as other Services." On 12 Jun 1682 Philip Henry presbyterian minister c1631-1696 [ODNB] noted in his diary "to Swinver. & Sturbr. -saw Mr. Wilsby an aged N.C., weak". Still living at Old Swinford Willesby died, aged 64, and was buried there on 6 Aug 1682. His will made on 24 Jun 1682 was proved under *PCC* on 1 Jun 1683. The value of his personalty is undiscovered but in his will he mentions much property and he was evidently a wealthly man. In his will (extract below) Willesby founded a school at Spalding later known as the Willesbye or Petit School. He bequeathed four named books (first published in the years given) to his brother James: William Camden *Britannia* (1586), Peter Heylyn [? *Microcosmus. A little description of the great world* (1621)], Samuel Clark *A mirrour or looking-glasse both for saints and sinners* ... (?1654) and Richard Baxter *A Christian directory* (1673). His remaining books were to be charitably disposed. Two of his five overseers were fellow ministers - Richard Serjeant presbyterian minister of Stone, Worcs 1621-?1696 and John Reynolds M.D. (presbyterian minister of Wolverhampton) 1632-1683 **QV**.

... [bequeathes] Fifty acres and three Rood lying in Tid Moulton and Spalding to [trustees] ... Mr Walter Johnson, Mr James Willesby, William Willesby of Grayes Inn Esq, Mr Christopher Willesby, Mr Robert Willesby of London ... nephew Martin Johnson [to] build or purchase a Convenient house in Spalding ... [and] place a man of a Sober and vertuous life who shall bee well able to teach the Reading of the English Tongue and to write and also to Instruct the Children committed to his charge in the principles of the Christian and Reformed Religion as a Schoolemaster ... [to be paid £15 pa] ... teaching freely the Children of suh poore Parents ... to read write and learne the principles of Christian Religion contained [in the Apostles Creed etc] ... those Children that are most towardly and tractable ... be sent away well clothed with a bible and sound practacall Books such as Mr Baxters Call to the unconverted or Mr Thos Gouges young mans guide ... [poorest children] placing them to some honest trade as Apprentices ... I bequeath to my brother James Willesby Cambdens Brittannia Heylins Geography Clarkes Mirrour and Mr Baxters Christians Directory And as for the rest of my Books excepting some practacall ones my wife shall reserve for her owne use I give them to bee sold and the mony to bee bestowed on foure poor ejected Ministers or their Widdows and Children ... Item I give Forty shillings to bee laid out in buying Mr. Baxters Call to the unconverted and some bibles and to bestow them amongst poore families that can read in Wamborne and Tresill ... Mr. Henry Glover of Swinford Mr. Richard Seargeant of Hagley Mr. John Reynolds and Mr. John ? Russell of Wulverhampton and Mr. Francis Jordan of Kinver [supervisors]

Willesby married perhaps about 1648 to Ann (no known children). *Calamy* records in 1727 "He was of a catholick Spirit, and by Preaching, Practice, and Conference stirr'd up others to Moderation, holy Walking, Heavenly-mindedness, and the Practice of Piety. He was sometimes a little melancholy; but liv'd by Faith to a good old-Age and when he died was very generally lamented."

William Wilson (?presbyterian minister of Pelsall) e1622-.... R46

Wilson, born perhaps about 1622, is of unknown parentage. He was probably only educated to literate grade. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman when about 1651.2 he was in office as ?presbyterian minister of Pelsall parochial curacy. In Jun 1660 he probably continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. No further record (of him or his family) has been discovered.

Richard York (presbyterian minister of Rushall) c1633-1666 R47

York, born about 1633, was a son of Francis York of Shrewsbury innkeeper c1596-1644 and Sarah (Owen). He was educated at Shrewsbury about 1645/8. He was probably only educated to literate grade. He was presumably qualified to be a presbyterian clergyman when about 1657 he was probably appointed presbyterian minister of Rushall parochial curacy. In Jun 1660 he probably continued in office as *de facto* parochial curate. He paid a clerical subsidy in 1661. On 24 Aug 1662 he did not subscribe to *The act of uniformity* and was thus to be deprived. In 1664 he is said to have been lodging at Shrewsbury with Alderman Webb and that year was acting as an "intelligencer" between presbyterians in London, Shrewsbury, and Wales. On 3 Jul 1664 he was preaching at London St Mary Aldermanbury and in Dec 1664 and Jan 1664.5 at London St Lawrence Pountney and London College Hill. He died "of a consumption", aged about 33, and was buried on 21 May 1666 at Shrewsbury St Chad perhaps as requested "in [the] Churchyard ... amongst my Ancestors". His will made on 17 May 1666 was proved under Lichfield on 3 Oct 1666. His personalty was valued at £48/14/10 and included "It In bookes £6/13/4". York married on 2 Mar 1662.3 at Shrewsbury St Mary to Mary Evans of Astley (no known children). On 28 May 1666 Philip Henry presbyterian minister c1630-1696 writes in his diary "The week before, Mr. York dyd in Shrewsb. a holy good man, & well approved in the Ministry, who wasted his own Candle in giving light to others, even whilst under the Bushel. ..." Whilst *Calamy* records in 1713 that he was "A religious active Man, and a lively Preacher."